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Arab-Israeli Talks

Rabinovich: Report on U.S. Criticism 'Distorted'

TA1112074192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0503 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] The Israeli and Palestinian delegations agreed last night to continue to discuss finalizing the agenda of the negotiations during their next meeting on Monday. Last night's meeting was described by the Israelis as businesslike. Arye Golan reports from Washington.

[Begin recording] [Golan] In the negotiations on the Palestinian track, both sides began detailed discussions on the agenda. The Israelis added two clauses to their previous proposal: one on local administration and another on the legal and judicial system. The previous proposal already incorporated clauses on the purpose of the negotiations; the concept [last word in English] or, in other words, the components of self-government; the powers and areas of responsibility; the elements of peaceful coexistence; and supporting, supplementary steps.

This morning, the Israeli representatives described the last meeting as businesslike. The Palestinians submitted a very detailed response regarding the agenda and said they wished to finalize the issue. Why did Israel not submit its proposal for immediate autonomy to the Palestinians or, in other words, why did it not propose to immediately hand over responsibility for five areas of daily life to the Palestinians without any negotiations? This was how Elyakim Rubinstein, the head of the Israeli team to the talks with the Palestinians, reacted to the report:

[Rubinstein] First of all, this proposal you just described is the newspaper's baby, so let the paper submit it. In any case, the negotiations will continue. Today, for example, the atmosphere was quite reasonable, even under the conditions imposed by the Palestinians, who arrived with such a small team.

[Golan] We asked Rubinstein: How is the coordination between Israel and the United States? Did State Department official Dan Kurtzer harshly criticize the Israelis and claim that our proposals were insufficient?

[Rubinstein] I would like to say that this entire report was distorted and exaggerated. Since it is not customary to divulge the details of diplomatic contacts, I will not comment on this matter; however, those listening and anyone who read the report should know that the story was seriously distorted, because there was a prologue and an epilogue which were not mentioned. As for the Americans, we hold many meetings and exchange views. We do not always agree on everything, but one can frankly say that we have satisfactory work relations with them, and this is clearly evident all the time. Sometimes we have disagreements that may include differences of opinion, but the reports that I have read are inaccurate and very distorted.

[Golan] At the end of one tough week of negotiations, the Israeli delegation at least, is feeling optimistic. [end recording]

Palestinian Delegation Issues Statement

TA1012205692 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 9 Dec 92 pp 1, 15

[Text] Washington—The Palestinian Delegation Media Center—A statement by the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks in Washington has stressed that the PLO decision to participate in the eighth round of negotiations with a reduced delegation and a limited number of members is an expression of the annoyance at the state which the talks have reached.

An official statement in the name of the delegation, issued yesterday with the beginning of the work of the eighth round, described the current state of negotiations in the following points:

1. Despite the fact that the one-year timeframe set for negotiations over a Palestinian interim self-government in the occupied territories has elapsed, no progress has been achieved and no substitute and clear timeframe has been adopted.

2. Israel continues to disavow and ignore the basis, terms of reference, principles, and goals of the peace process. In particular, it continues to disavow the principle of land for peace embodied in Resolutions 242 and 338 and the application of these two resolutions on the entire process.

3. The Israeli model for the interim period, proposed during the seventh round's unofficial meetings, is an illegal, unjust, and impractical proposal. This model seeks to bestow legitimacy on the confiscation of land for settlement purposes and, eventually, create a fait accompli that invalidates the final status negotiations. This model also proposes the establishment of a dual system during the interim period similar to the apartheid system, while insisting on the annexation of Arab Jerusalem to Israel. This plan, in addition to being unethical, is also impractical and under no circumstances can it constitute a basis for fruitful and constructive negotiations.

4. The Israeli occupation forces are continuing their repeated violations of the rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. Consequently, this arouses hatred and violence and undermines the credibility of the peace process. The Israeli refusal to implement the Geneva Convention is a blow to the spirit of the talks and to the will of the international community.

The statement stressed that a tangible change in Israel's policies and practices in the occupied territories will be a practical test of commitment to and sincere intentions in the negotiations. In the absence of this change, Palestinian calls to provide international protection to our people under occupation will continue.

5. The role of the co-sponsors of the conference, particularly that of the U.S. Administration, lacked effectiveness and did not represent the real participation expected from it. The United States, in addition to being the motivating force in the process, also has the additional responsibility in helping to foster a more positive climate for the negotiations in the region.

PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh Outlines Position on Talks

PM0912160492 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Dec 92 p3

[Unattributed interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] [AL-HAYAH] How do you justify the Palestinian position which advocated boycotting the eighth round of bilateral negotiations with Israel? Why did you then agree to participate in it, and what are your views regarding the ninth round, if held during President George Bush's term of office?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The Palestinian position stemmed from the fact that numerous matters needed clarification by the peace conference sponsors. We believe that the Israeli plan submitted to us in the seventh round was a violation of the basis of the peace process and ran contrary to the UN resolutions on which that process was founded, especially Resolution 242.

[AL-HAYAH] What did the Israeli plan contain that was unacceptable to you?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The aim of the Israeli plan for the transitional period was to confirm the occupation and seek legitimacy for its continuation. It was not a prelude to the implementation of Resolution 242 as emphasized by the invitation to the peace conference. Rather, it was a move to torpedo that resolution and make its implementation at the end of the political process impossible. That is why we have asked the conference sponsors to take a clear stand on that plan.

[AL-HAYAH] Was that your only objection to participation in the next round?

['Abd-Rabbuh] No, that was a good reason. The second reason was that it had been decided in Madrid that the negotiation period would be one year at the end of which the sponsors would intervene and state their positions as to who was responsible for the procrastination and time-wasting during that year, and would make a clear commitment as to the length of time the negotiations should take in the next phase. The Palestinian position is that we cannot continue to operate in the context of a political process that has no specific time limit. That is why our view was to postpone participation in the next round and call on the parties concerned, especially the conference sponsors, to state their positions.

[AL-HAYAH] But the United States is in a period of transition from one administration to another. Is it possible at this stage to ask Washington to make an advance initiative to fulfillment of your aspirations or demands?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We maintain that there is a new U.S. Administration and it is our duty to confront it with these questions, not to absolve it of responsibility for the peace process.

We believe that the new U.S. Administration should make a clear commitment based on the experience of the past year of negotiations, a commitment to the basis of the political process, a commitment to confront any violation of that basis, such as the Israeli plan, and a commitment to a timetable for the process in view of the fact that Israel wasted a whole year through the procrastination of (Yitzhaq) Shamir's government and the Israeli plan submitted by (Yitzhaq) Rabin's government.

Our position was based on all these factors. All these matters were raised during the Arab ministerial meeting. Some were of the opinion that these matters could be raised with the sponsors during the next round and that, in light of the degree of progress made or the results achieved, we could refrain from participation in any future rounds until the Clinton administration assumes power.

[AL-HAYAH] Does that mean that you would withdraw from the negotiations if no positive results are achieved in the next round?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We have not decided to boycott or withdraw from the political process. We are addressing these ideas positively but we should certainly not view the process on the basis of acceptance of Israeli violations throughout the past period of negotiations.

All these matters will be raised at the meeting of the Palestinian leadership which will determine its final position.

[AL-HAYAH] But you have already decided to participate and accepted the final statement of the foreign ministers of the twelve states held in Bayt Miri.

['Abd-Rabbuh] I mean to determine the form of participation in the next round. That is in protest not only against the Israeli position regarding the basic principles of the peace process but also against the U.S. indifference about the matter of completing the process within one year and Washington's failure to take a clear stand on the Israeli plan submitted in the previous round.

All the parties concerned must know that there is a limit to our patience and that our willingness to deal positively is not indefinite. We cannot allow the fate of a whole people to be underestimated.

[AL-HAYAH] Why did you not officially convey your position on the Israeli plan to the United States, and if you did, what was its response?

[Abd-Rabbuh] We did convey our positions to the United States and a week ago we received a message from [acting Secretary of State] Eagleburger. The answers were insufficient. It tried to describe what happened in the seventh round and indicate that there was some progress in that round saying that the Israeli side presented its ideas in detail and asking us, in return, to submit our ideas and positions.

That attitude which tries to appear to be neutral is in fact an attempt to avoid adopting a clear policy as promised by the United States in the letter of assurances, a clear policy regarding the attempts to depart from the basic principles of the political process and those who try to dither and waste time in the process. We will continue discussions with the U.S. Administration on the points on which we did not receive sufficient clarifications. We conveyed the same positions to a number of European capitals and to the Russian sponsor. It was also discussed during the five-sided (Arab) meeting.

[AL-HAYAH] Did you sense any Arab solidarity in support of this position?

[Abd-Rabbuh] There is no real Arab solidarity. So far, even a minimum degree of solidarity is lacking. That is a loss not only for the Palestinians or the five states concerned with the peace process but also for all the Arab parties which are now suffering from complex problems. Their only guarantee is to work for the protection of Arab security against all forms of encroachment on this security and all flagrant attempts of interference in the internal affairs of a number of Arab countries. Such a guarantee can only be achieved through a formula for joint Arab action based on an endeavor to arrive at a single concept of unified Arab security and coordinated Arab causes, with settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and support for the Palestinian cause as the basis.

[AL-HAYAH] Is there a "lack of solidarity" problem also among the five Arab parties involved in the bilateral negotiations?

[Abd-Rabbuh] Our relations are based on coordination and exchange of views and attitudes. We are committed to work for a comprehensive settlement without harming each side's attempts to make progress in their efforts. Through that formula we believe we can achieve integration. There are no problems among the Arab parties concerned with the political process. Their problem is that they do not get real collect.=e Arab solidarity.

Al-'Allaf: Israeli Proposal 'Unacceptable'

JN1012183292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Arab delegations to the Middle East peace talks resumed their meetings with the Israeli side today after a one-day recess during which the Arab delegations marked the fifth anniversary of the intifadah.

Prior to today's meeting, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, said that discussion today will continue on the fifth item in the Syrian proposal which deals with full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and with the Israeli-proposed amendments to this item.

Responding to a question on whether the Israeli side has clearly defined what it means by withdrawal, al-'Allaf said: No, what they proposed is unacceptable and does not, in our opinion, mean full withdrawal.

Lebanon's Shamman: No Separate Peace With Israel

NC1112070892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] A session of talks within the eighth round of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations was held in Washington yesterday.

Ambassador Suhayl Shamman, head of the Lebanese delegation, asserted that Lebanon will never be lured into a separate peace accord with Israel. Emerging from the U.S. State Department, he said: For one year the Israelis have tried but failed to force us to recognize the legitimacy of their occupation of south Lebanon. They have also been unable to lure us into a separate peace.

Says Israel Cause of Talks 'Failure'

NC1112073892 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] The third meeting of the eighth round of the bilateral talks between the Arabs and Israel did not progress on every track, although Israel spoke of draft agreements with Jordan and the Palestinians.

Yesterday's session between the Lebanese and Israeli delegations was tense. Replying to Israeli accusations, Lebanese delegations head Ambassador Suhayl Shamman said: Let me say frankly that the cause of the disappointment the Israelis are speaking about one year after the start of the negotiations is that they have failed to legitimize their occupation of our territory. This failure was natural.

He reiterated that the so-called security strip has not brought Israel security or calm, which will be difficult to establish inside Lebanese territory if the Israelis do not withdraw.

Ambassador Shamman also noted that Israel has failed throughout the year of negotiations to achieve a unilateral peace with Lebanon. He stressed that the 17 May accord [negotiated in 1983 between Lebanon and Israel] will not be repeated and that the Israelis cannot sell it to our delegation step by step. He added: Lebanon will assess every Israeli proposal on the basis of whether it aims primarily to achieve a separate peace. The Lebanese delegation is here to negotiate a comprehensive solution and peace. He went on to say: The Israeli

delegation tried in the past few days to give the impression that Lebanon has rejected all the Israeli proposals. It did not say those proposals reflected a complete Israeli stand that we could not possibly accept. He said the Lebanese delegation has no qualms about describing its talks as optimistic. He added: If rejection serves peace, we are optimistic, but at least we do not impede peace. When the Israelis present proposals that are fair to both sides, they will find us responsive. The talks will remain open until this happens.

Shamoun rejected any accusation that casts doubt on the freedom of the Lebanese delegation and decision. He said: We told them we take exception to and reject this. Lebanon showed in the past year its freedom to act and the independence of its delegation.

He said Lebanon has shown no desire to discuss an agenda for the negotiations, on the basis that it is futile and takes a long time. Giving an example, he said the Jordanians and Israelis are still negotiating the agenda one year after the start of the negotiations. He added: The Lebanese delegation called instead for open talks and the Israeli delegation agreed and so could present its proposals.

On the reasons for Lebanon refusing to take maps to the talks, Shamoun said he told the Israelis at the time that these maps are like missiles and must be disarmed before being taken in. So the time has not come to take maps to the negotiating table and if an agreement is reached to involve military experts, the maps could be taken in.

On Lebanon's reply to the Israeli proposal to form military committees, Shamoun said that Lebanon, not Israel, sets the substance and timing of this.

Jordanian Delegate Marks Intifadah Anniversary

JN1011115492 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, has said that we have waged the battle for peace with the will to achieve peace if it is possible to do so, and none of us will ever give up this battle.

In a speech he delivered yesterday at a celebration at the Palestinian delegation's place of residence in Washington, marking the fifth anniversary of the Palestinian intifadah against the Israeli occupation, he added: We will struggle for peace in the negotiations the way our brothers in the occupied Palestinian territory struggle, until we achieve what is satisfactory to us and to God.

Dr. al-Majali praised the will of the Palestinian people who have continued on their territory, struggling and resisting for the past decades with a strong will.

In a speech delivered during the celebration, Dr. Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, said there is a link between the objectives of the intifadah and the peace negotiations, which began more than one year ago and have the same objectives as the intifadah; that is, to liberate the occupied Arab territories and restore what can be restored of the Palestinian people's rights. He stressed that the Arab parties will never give up any Arab right and will only accept a comprehensive withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories.

For his part, Dr. Hayder 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, said the message of the Palestinian intifadah makes it clear to us that there is a big responsibility to be shouldered with honesty. He affirmed that supporting right is not the responsibility of the Palestinians and Arabs alone nor is it the duty of only one people. It is, he said, the responsibility of the entire world, and it is a humanitarian duty.

Reduced Size of Palestinian Delegation Justified

PM1012140492 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 7 Dec 92 p 11

[Editorial: "Palestinian Message to Washington"]

[Text] The Palestinian leadership in Tunis has decided to participate in the eighth round of bilateral negotiations which will begin in Washington today, but with a reduced delegation comprising no more than three members.

This participation came after numerous Arab and international ambiguous all of which advised against boycott and suspension of participation.

With this decision the Palestinian leadership wanted to send a clear message to the U.S. Administration, sponsor of the negotiations, to the effect that its patience has begun to run out with regard to the Israeli methods of procrastination and evasion. And that it is considering all other options, including suspending its participation in the negotiations.

Everyone knows that the Palestinians have begun to feel that the bilateral negotiations are a waste of time. Eight rounds of them have been held, but no progress has been made, despite the flexibility they have displayed in this connection.

It has taken a full year to hold eight rounds, but the disagreement is still where it was. The only agreement was to continue negotiation over illogical Israeli proposals for a feeble autonomy lacking all foundations of sovereignty.

Israel continues to build settlements, carry out expropriations, and denies thousands of the occupied territories' sons. And it has offered no gesture to prove its desire for peace, like releasing detainees, pledging to halt settlement building, or implementing UN Security Council Resolution 242.

And as Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat said, Israel wants to establish the occupation, keep conditions as they stand, and deceive world public opinion—which is difficult for any Palestinian to accept.

When the Palestinians went to Madrid—under unjust conditions—they wanted to emphasize their true desire for peace and to implement the UN resolutions. But it became clear that Israel participated in the negotiations for completely different objectives like obstruction and evasion, and to push the Palestinians to the verge of despair and, then, withdrawal from the peace process. Former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir admitted these objectives openly when he said that he was prepared to negotiate with the Palestinians for 10 years without achieving any progress.

And regrettably Yitzhaq Rabin is following the same objectives, making concessions on the pages of newspapers only. But when his delegation sits at the negotiating table, it offers nothing new. The ideas are the same and the methods are the same.

And here is the Israeli delegation going to the eighth round, carrying no new proposals—which means that the eighth round will be like all the previous rounds, if not worse. This is why the Palestinians have decided to reduce the number of their delegation's members, at least to reduce financial losses. And they are completely in the right in this connection as long as the negotiations are futile, and the Arab states are imposing an ugly financial siege on the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

What we fear most is for Israel to be observing the peace process not only because it does not want to make concessions but because it wants to embarrass the moderate wing of the PLO and strengthen the extremist wing to thwart an internal Palestinian solution. If Israel wants to support the moderates, as Rabin says in his recent statements, the first step it should take is to abandon its unacceptable proposals on autonomy and accept the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Marks Intifadah Anniversary

HC1012220892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1422 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 10 Dec (MENA)—The Arab League this morning marked the international day for solidarity with the Palestinian people. Taking part in the ceremony were Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid; Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who is chairman of the current session of the Arab League Council; Sa'id Kamal, Palestine's ambassador to Cairo; Dr. Mujahid Tawfiq al-Jundi, representative of Al-Azhar Grand Imam Shaykh Jad-al-Haq 'Ali Jad-al-Haq; Bishop Musa, representative of the Alexandria pope and patriarch of the missionary province of St. Mark; Arab and foreign ambassadors, intellectuals, and news reporters.

The ceremony began with a minute of silence in mourning of the martyrs of the Palestinian intifadah, which has just begun its sixth year.

Then Shaykh al-Jundi delivered a speech in which he stated that Jerusalem is Arab and noted that the blood of Egyptian martyrs has blended with that of Palestinian martyrs. Shaykh al-Jundi called for unity in the face of the threats confronting the Palestinian people and holy Jerusalem. He praised al-Azhar's support of the Palestinian issue.

Bishop Musa spoke afterward, calling on Israelis to see reason and live in peace with the Arabs. The bishop called on Arab nations to form comprehensive unity at a time of large world blocs. He saluted the sons of the Palestinian intifadah, which is entering its sixth year.

Speaking on the same occasion, Foreign Minister Musa said that the ceremony symbolizes the world's solidarity with the Palestinian people and its support for their rights. Today's meeting, he added, acquires particular significance in light of the recent changes on the international scene. Musa said that Egypt takes note of the developments on the international scene and calls for intensive efforts to find a just settlement of the conflict in the Middle East.

The Egyptian foreign minister said that the international community agrees on the need to resolve the Middle East and other conflicts, implement international resolutions, and achieve greater cooperation. The implementation of international resolutions would greatly benefit the Arab issue, he added.

Musa said that the peace process gives another dimension to solidarity with the Palestinian people. He pointed out that Egypt believes that the Middle East crisis should be approached as a whole with a view to achieving comprehensive peace in accordance with UN resolutions, particularly UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. UN resolutions, he added, must be implemented in a way that ensures full Israeli withdrawal from Jerusalem, Golan, and Lebanon. Musa reiterated adherence to the principle of exchanging land for peace.

The Egyptian foreign minister said that Egypt calls for the implementation of UN General Assembly resolutions concerning Jerusalem and halting settlements. Musa said that Israel's settlements are illegal and that Israel's policy to settle immigrants contravenes Geneva conventions and obstructs peace.

'Amr Musa said that the legal status of the Palestinian people is not open to compromise, particularly the right of refugees to return in accordance with UN Resolution 194. He stressed the need for the implementation of international resolutions in this regard.

We hope that the international order will be governed by the principles of conscience, equality, and justice, Musa said. He pointed out that the Palestinian people have agreed to resort to negotiations and seek peace. The Palestinians have shown flexibility, he remarked.

The Egyptian foreign minister said that Israel has ample room to initiate confidence-building measures [illegible]

the Palestinian people. He denounced Israel's measures of expulsion and confiscation of land, saying that these measures conflict with the spirit of peace.

'Amr Musa called for the creation of an atmosphere in which the Palestinians will be reassured and the prospects for peaceful coexistence enhanced. He saluted and voiced appreciation of the Palestinian people on the international day for solidarity with them.

Arab League Secretary General Dr. Tawat 'Abd-al-Majid made a speech, saying that this celebration comes amid an important development in the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict. This development affirms that the Middle East region will not see stability or security before a just settlement to the Palestinian issue is found based on the international and Arab legitimacy and the Palestinian people's right to exercise their national and inalienable rights.

Referring to the peace talks between the Arabs and Israel, 'Abd-al-Majid said that they demonstrate an Arab position seeking a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. He also noted reports on the U.S. President's willingness to receive a Palestinian delegation in the White House on 17 December for the first time, saying that the importance and implications of this meeting are clear, noting that the Israeli aggressor during the Likud Bloc's rule continually maneuvered to mark time. He expressed his hope that the Israeli aggressor under the Labor Party government will change its behavior because the establishment of peace and stability in the Middle East will primarily benefit the Israeli people. In addition, stability and peace will help the peoples of the area to devote their efforts to comprehensive economic development.

'Abd-al-Majid stressed that the peace process requires important steps to achieve the hoped for historic reconciliation for the peoples of the Middle East and lay the foundations of peaceful coexistence among them. Some of these steps require that Israel completely stop building settlements in the occupied Arab territories and refrain from bringing Jewish immigrants to these settlements. Israel should also halt its unjust practices against the Palestinian people and comply with the provisions of Geneva's fourth convention of 1949 and with human rights in its treatment of Palestinian prisoners. Israel should also act to provide international protection under UN supervision to prepare the atmosphere and supervise the establishment of a transition authority in the occupied Palestinian territories that would eventually lead to recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Israel should implement all theses of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and guarantee the Palestinian people's right to establish their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. The Palestinians residing in Jerusalem and those in the diaspora should be represented in the peace talks. All parties have equal mutual rights to security and the security of one party must not be at the expense of another, infringing on its sovereignty or territorial integrity. Israel should join the nuclear nonproliferation treaty and the agreement preventing the use of chemical and biological weapons.

Sa'id Kamal, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Cairo, then delivered a speech on this occasion in which he reviewed the developments in the peace negotiations since the Madrid conference, noting that no progress has been made in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in the past year.

He called on the United Nations to play an effective role, together with the two sponsor states, to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of numerous UN resolutions. Kamal said that in order for the United Nations to make its desired contribution, it must now assume responsibility for protecting the Palestinian people under occupation in accordance with its resolutions in this regard.

Kamal added that the Palestinian side, from the start, has expressed its great appreciation for the important efforts made by U.S. President George Bush, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, and their assistants. All the parties concerned in the Middle East have accepted the U.S. initiative and regarded it as a suitable basis for achieving just peace in the area, he said.

He added that the U.S. Administration has offered all this without making Israel commit itself to abide by the principles of President Bush's initiative itself or implement the UN resolutions to bolster the peace process. This has led to general frustration in the Arab region and affected the credibility of U.S. policy in this peace process.

The Palestinian ambassador called on the U.S. Administration to make Israel abide by the resolutions of international legitimacy. He also called on it make an effective contribution to ensure the success of the peace process, deal with the negative factors wisely, and again place the peace process on a secure track to achieve the desired result of ending the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Maghreb Foreign Ministers View Libyan Dispute

LD1012214492 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] The proceedings of the emergency meeting of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] foreign ministers began in Rabat this afternoon. A number of topics, foremost among them the current crisis between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and a number of Western Countries, were discussed at this meeting, which falls within the framework of the continuous consultation between the AMU foreign ministers.

Mouaz. Abdelhafid Filali, [Moroccan] minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation; Lakhdar Brahimi, the Algerian foreign minister; Jumu'a Mahdi al-Farnasi, secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah; Habib Ibn Yahia, the

Tunisian foreign minister; Ismail Ould Yahi, the Mauritanian Minister of Contacts and Relations with the Parliament; Mohamed Ammoun, AMU secretary general, and Moulay Ahmed Cherkaoui, the Moroccan secretary of state for foreign affairs, took part in the meeting. After the meeting Mr. Abdellatif Filali made the following statement:

[Begin Filali recording] It is important to point out that the meeting was an emergency one for the AMU Foreign Ministers Council. The decision to hold this meeting was taken the day before the meeting of the UN Security Council. However, this meeting was convened for consultations to be briefed by our brothers from the Jamahiriyah on their moves on the international scene, particularly with the three countries [United States, Britain and France] directly or indirectly. We believe that yesterday's statement by the UN Security Council president did not predict any resolutions in the dispute between Libya and the three countries. Therefore, we hope—God willing—that we will be able by tomorrow to formulate a statement that will express the AMU Foreign Ministers Council's principled solidarity with the Jamahiriyah and take into consideration the positive development in this problem. [end recording]

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Officials Mark 5th Anniversary of Intifadah

'Arafat Address Reported

LD1011202592 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has stressed that the intifadah of our Palestinian people, which is beginning its sixth year, will continue wave after wave, state after state, and flame after flame until the Palestinian flag is hoisted over holy Jerusalem, capital of the Palestinian state, first of the two kiblahs and third of the two holy mosques, sacred place of Prophet Muhammad, God's prayers and peace be upon him.

In a speech at a mass rally at the Palestinian Jerusalem school held yesterday on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Palestinian people's intifadah, he added: I would like to tell Rabin, an actor of the ten-film and breaker of children's bones, that the rubber of the stone and the club of the RPG [rocket-propelled grenade] are in harmony with our Palestinian negotiating delegation with regard to this sacred Palestinian cause. This delegation which is embarking of the battle of negotiations, to create this Palestinian establishment and this brilliant symphony as part of the march of our Palestinian people to build an independent Palestinian state.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar emphasized that we went to the negotiations out of conviction. We will continue to do so with conviction and will boycott them out of conviction because our Palestinian decision is a free one, and stems from the decisions made by the Palestinian National Council. He said that there is nobody among us who can replace—for one single minute—committing the crime of forgetting Jerusalem or dropping it from the negotiations. We eagerly protect Jerusalem, the most precious of Islamic sacred places and the birthplace of Jesus, peace be upon him.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar condemned the criminal attacks which are committed by the occupation authorities against the uprising of our people. They include brutality which are internationally prohibited and the imposition of siege on many areas in our occupied soil. The latest siege is in the Gaza strip. Its purpose is to starve our people and force them to submit. But our people in this long march, from the blessed martyrs, fighters, 'Id, Za'rir, and all the martyrs of our people, will not submit.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar stressed that we are the only delegation which is negotiating while engaged in combat from the south of Lebanon to Rafah and is daily offering martyrs. This prompted the leaders of the enemy to admit that the uprising has not abated. What happened was when the stones became scarce, the bullets increased and the military operations increased.

He affirmed that today we exist on the political map and our negotiating delegation is sitting at the table and is discussing it and is fighting and struggling as an equal. Anyone who exists on the political map must inevitably exist on the geographical map.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar noted that the coming year is the age of the uprising and the age of our Palestinian revolution which has continued for 28 years—that is, the sixth year of the uprising—is one of the most crucial years. He called for closing ranks and for Palestinian national unity which is the barrier that will stand up to all the conspiracies which are launched against our people.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar gave a pledge to all the martyrs of our people and to our gallant popular uprising that the revolution and the uprising shall until the establishment of the independent Palestinian State, its symbol Tunisia, its president, its government, and its people for sponsoring the Palestinian revolution.

The rally was attended by a number of brothers from the Palestinian leadership and from the General Union of Tunisian Workers and the Palestinian revolution cadres.

Official Holds News Conference

LD0811221092 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] In the Middle East, on the eve of the celebration of the fifth anniversary of the outbreak of the Palestinian intifadah, the Palestinian fighters yesterday carried out a daring attack resulting in the killing of three Israeli

soldiers. The Israeli forces described the attack as the bloodiest one since the beginning of the intifadah five years ago.

Also on this occasion, the ambassador of the State of Palestine in Algiers, Mr. Abu-al-'Izz, held a press conference this morning. The conference was attended by Bashir Hadifah:

[Hadifah] The ambassador of the State of Palestine linked the intifadah and the current negotiations, stressing that the children of the stones will not cease to claim their right to see the establishment of the Palestinian State in the occupied territories as long as negotiations do achieve progress that is worth mentioning. These negotiations were not destined to succeed, Abu-al-'Izz said, because the American administration, which has got the power of approval and disapproval, did not budge. The American-Israeli collusion, the Arab silence, and the absence of a true role for the United Nations, which is awaiting the orders of the U.S. State Department, increased the Israelis' covetousness and their oppression of the Palestinians in the occupied territories without any differentiation between children, old people, and women before the eyes and the ears of all, he said. Mr. Abu-al-'Izz revealed during this press conference amazing figures about the continuous Israeli repression in the occupied territories against the Palestinian people. Here follow some excerpts from this press conference:

[Begin Abu-al-'Izz recording] I must point out here that the number of martyrs since the beginning of the intifadah until now has reached 1,093. The number of the wounded since the beginning of the intifadah until now has reached 125,643. The number of people arrested since the beginning of the intifadah has reached 110,000 men and women, 15,276 of who are still detained. The number of destroyed or closed homes has reached 2,343. The number deported in an overt way has reached 64, and in fraudulent ways, more than 5,000 Palestinian citizens. These citizens are allowed to leave on the condition that they do not return to the occupied territories for three years. Therefore, this is a fraudulent way to circumvent the deportation procedure. All this has happened, in addition to land confiscation, curfews, and school and university closures to keep the Palestinian people ignorant. I have to point out a very important point, which is the fact that 11,261 Palestinian women have miscarried pregnancies due to the Israeli violent acts against our women in the occupied homeland. [end recording]

'Abd-Rabbuh Makes Statement

LD1012193592 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] On the occasion of the Palestinian intifadah entering its sixth year, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the information department, gave the news department the following statement:

[Begin 'Abd-Rabbuh recording] The great popular Palestinian intifadah is an evidence of the continuation of the struggle of our Palestinian people until they have achieved freedom and independence.

Today, the whole world knows that this people's determination will not relent, and that it is waging war on all fronts: the front of the intifadah struggle, and the diplomatic and political front, through the talks for the sake of arriving at a just solution which guarantees for our people the achievement of their aims in independence and the return to their homeland after long suffering.

We are confident that the coming year will carry greater accomplishments in favor of the intifadah and in favor of our Palestinian people.

We proudly say that these accomplishments which carry the stamp of the intifadah also carry alongside that the stamp of Tunisia which hosted the Palestinian struggle and which has always taken—leadership and people—a stand of unrestricted solidarity and support alongside the cause of our Palestinian people.

The celebration of the intifadah is a Palestinian celebration, and it is a celebration for Tunisia, to continue for the sake of achieving the same aims. God willing, next year we will be in Jerusalem. [end recording]

'Arafat Accuses Iran of Supporting Hamas

NC1112100892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0859 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tunis, 11 Dec (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has announced that Iran, in coordination with the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, is currently supplying the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and other opposition Palestinian organizations with all means of support, including money and arms, to fight Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories.

During a meeting with members of the Standing Bureau of the Arab Lawyers Federation Secretariat last night, 'Arafat said Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani explicitly told him during their recent meeting that he did not approve of the Madrid peace conference, and that he would support Palestinian opposition against the peace process.

'Arafat said he told the Iranian president: If you support Palestinian opposition, I will back pro-PLO elements in the Iranian city of Qom against the ruling Iranian regime.

'Arafat disclosed that later Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeyni refused to provide any assistance to the Palestinians during the siege of Beirut in 1982 on the grounds that he considered his war against Iraq a primary issue and his assistance to the Palestinians a marginal one.

'Arafat pointed out that the Palestinian revolution provided all means of material and moral support to the Iranian revolution when it was launched.

President 'Arafat said the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territories is continuing and will not stop before Palestine is liberated and the Palestinian flag is raised over Jerusalem. He stressed that armed struggle in the occupied territories will continue in parallel with the current peace negotiations.

'Arafat stressed he will not sign any agreement that would relinquish Jerusalem or the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

He said he hopes that efforts to restore Arab unity and solidarity will be intensified. This, he added, should go in line with attempts to remove the aftermath of the Gulf crisis and the rift it created in Arab ranks.

'Arafat called for a popular Arab conference in which all Arab popular organizations, associations, and trade unions would participate to discuss the current Arab situation and the challenges the Arab nation faces in the new world order.

The meeting was attended by Ahmad al-Khawajah, dayan of Egyptian lawyers and president of the Arab Lawyers Federation [ALF]; ALF Secretary General Faruq Abu-'Isa; doyens of various Arab lawyer associations, and a number of senior Arab lawyers.

Hamas Delegation Reported in Tehran for Talks

PM0912150092 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Dec 92 p4

[Unattributed report: "Hamas Political and Military Delegation in Tehran"]

[Excerpt] London, Tehran, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Sources in Tehran said yesterday that a delegation of Palestinian Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] political and military leaders will hold talks with senior Iranian security officials in the Iranian capital today.

The delegation is headed by Hamas' Gaza commander who arrived in Tehran Thursday and performed Friday prayers at the Tehran University mosque.

This is the second Hamas delegation to visit Tehran in less than three months. The first delegation was led by Musa Marzuq. It concluded a number of political and military cooperation agreements with Iran and Lebanese Hizb'Allah.

Hamas has opened an office in Tehran which is now always referred to as "an embassy." The Iranian Government now recognizes it as "the main representative of the Palestinian people." [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni on Mitterrand Visit, U.S. Dialogue

NC0912115792 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 4 Dec 92 pp 1,11

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation's Advisory Committee, by correspondent Idmun Sukkariyah in Bayt Miri, Lebanon; date not given]

[Text] [Sukkariyah] Is this your first official visit to Lebanon?

[Al-Husayni] Yes.

[Sukkariyah] When was your last unofficial visit?

[Al-Husayni] In 1981.

[Sukkariyah] What was not announced during French President Francois Mitterrand's visit to Israel?

[Al-Husayni] Apart from the public pronouncements regarding his position on the Palestinian state and ending the occupation, Mitterrand affirmed France's readiness to extend economic and financial aid to the Palestinian people, and we discussed greater needs than that.

[Sukkariyah] Such as?

[Al-Husayni] The housing issue. There are 7,500 buildings in Jerusalem that need repair, at a cost of $200-$300 million. Mitterrand expressed his readiness to study the issue.

[Sukkariyah] Did he offer any political initiatives?

[Al-Husayni] No, but he expressed his dissatisfaction with the fact that France and the European countries are excluded from the peace process. But as the peace process has begun, he could only offer what could facilitate its success. He appreciates the difficulties of this process.

[Sukkariyah] Did the talks deal with ending the Arab boycott of Israel in return for economic and development aid?

[Al-Husayni] We really did not discuss that. Perhaps Mitterrand discussed it with Arab states and the officials in Israel. Mitterrand had some incomplete information from the Israeli side.

[Sukkariyah] Such as?

[Al-Husayni] About autonomy. They gave him the idea that the proposed plan is for complete autonomy with complete powers except in foreign affairs and defense. We explained to him that the Israeli plan perpetuates the occupation instead of ending it. The French president expressed his understanding.

[Sukkariyah] To what end?

[Al-Husayni] We were able to convey a picture he can use.

[Sukkariyah] Has the meeting Mitterrand was expected to hold with 'Arafat been replaced by a meeting with you?

[Al-Husayni] The meeting is possible at any time, and depends on the desire of President 'Arafat. A meeting will take place when it is needed.

[Sukkariyah] Is it possible to say that Mitterrand asked for Palestinian support instead of offering assistance?

[Al-Husayni] Perhaps he came to promote an idea to help Israeli society overcome some views.

[Sukkariyah] Did he urge Israel to repeal the law banning contacts with the PLO?

[Al-Husayni] He did not discuss it. He may have discussed it indirectly.

[Sukkariyah] What is your view on the repealing of this law?

[Al-Husayni] It would be a step in the right direction, because it is basically an irrational and impractical law.

[Sukkariyah] Where will it lead?

[Al-Husayni] We began the talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on the basis of U.S. recognition of the PLO's practical role in the peace process. Israel did not recognize this role until after the Madrid conference. This took place toward the end of Shamir's government. This recognition was more apparent under Rabin's government. There was partial U.S. official recognition of the PLO's role when members of the organization were granted entry visas. We are now trying to prompt Israel to officially recognize the PLO's role.

[Sukkariyah] Will this involve a change in the Palestinian delegation?

[Al-Husayni] Not necessarily. They know that the delegation members are PLO members.

[Sukkariyah] Will this involve a meeting between 'Arafat and Rabin?

[Al-Husayni] That would be premature. It seems that an attempt will be made to normalize relations and improve the image of the PLO among the Israeli public.

[Sukkariyah] Much has been said about the possibility of such a meeting.

[Al-Husayni] I do not believe that such a meeting is necessary to achieve a comprehensive and genuine solution in the region. When would it take place? I do not think it would be soon.

[Sukkariyah] Will this lead to the resumption of the dialogue between the PLO and the United States?

[Al-Husayni] Israel did not want to repeal the law so as not to encourage the United States to restore the dialogue with the PLO.

[Text] [Sukkariyah] What are the U.S. conditions for resuming the dialogue?

[Al-Husayni] As far as I am concerned, I do not know if there are new conditions; there are questions and specific requests.

[Sukkariyah] Like what? Amending or abolishing the PLO charter?

[Al-Husayni] No; they concern field relations ['laqat maydaniyah].

[Sukkariyah] Does this mean that there will be no abolition of the PLO's role in favor of your delegation?

[Al-Husayni] We are the PLO; we are part of it. This admission demonstrates this fact.

[Sukkariyah] What will the Palestinians of the outside receive?

[Al-Husayni] They are present in the multilateral talks. 'Arafat's presence at the negotiating table is no less than Rabin's presence at the same table.

[Sukkariyah] What is the scope of coordination between the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations at the talks?

[Al-Husayni] It is better now than when it started.

[Sukkariyah] How do you evaluate the Jordanian-Israeli document?

[Al-Husayni] It is a draft agenda. When we pointed to some loopholes in it, the Jordanian side responded and reconsidered them.

[Sukkariyah] Was this step taken outside the course of negotiations and the comprehensive solution?

[Al-Husayni] No, it is part of the comprehensive process.

[Sukkariyah] This document, along with some Palestinian stands, led to bitterness in Syrian-Palestinian and Syrian-Jordanian relations.

[Al-Husayni] I do not know what caused this situation. I would like to say that during the meeting of the Jordanian sisters' foreign ministers in Amman and before the results of the Israeli general elections were announced, we said that we did not need coordination in view of Shamir government's policy, which was rejected by instinct. Now that Rabin has come, the Arabs need a high-level of coordination; otherwise, things between us could go wrong. This is what we are facing now. The Israelis are making proposals which, if we are not alert, could hurt us. There was some development over certain issues from the past, but they are now in the process of being resolved [sentence as published].

[Sukkariyah] How is your relationship with Syria?

[AL-Hamyni] When the Madrid Conference started, the coordination was not good. Now it is serious and not just a matter of courtesy, although some differences in views may take place.

[Bakkariyah] What do you expect from today's meeting [of coordinating states foreign ministers in Lebanon]?

[Al-Hamyni] The previous round is over and a date has been set for the eighth round. These negotiations need preparations of files and a review of stands. Then, we want the Arab brothers to tell us what information they have on the eighth round and why they agreed so quickly to attend them. We also want to know what we are supposed to do. Is it better to concentrate now on the talks with Israel or on inter-Arab relations to face the new government of Clinton? Shall we call for an expanded Arab summit or go to Washington? Will the multilateral talks remain suspended because of the absence of some parties? It is unacceptable for the negotiation process to go along in a routine manner.

[Bakkariyah] Have you held contacts with the Clinton administration?

[Al-Hamyni] Of course; there are certain contacts, but they are not clear. The Clinton team is not clear yet.

[Bakkariyah] Will Bush do something before he leaves?

[Al-Hamyni] We heard about this, but we have not seen anything.

[Bakkariyah] Will former President Jimmy Carter be Clinton's envoy to the region?

[Al-Hamyni] This is within the realm of rumors.

[Bakkariyah] Do you think there will be a substantial change in U.S. foreign policy?

[Al-Hamyni] No, but there would be a wider European participation, and the UN role could be broadened.

[Bakkariyah] What was the nature of your mission at the Jeddah conference [of Islamic foreign ministers]?

[Al-Hamyni] Aside from the discussion on Bosnia-Herzegovina, there was a resolution regarding Jerusalem. This issued needs to be examined early to consolidate the Arab nature of Jerusalem.

[Bakkariyah] What about the intifadah and the negotiations?

[Al-Hamyni] It experienced a period of disappointment following the Gulf war then started to go through a period of political awakening, which led to more Palestinian attention toward the inside. Then came the hunger strike by the Palestinian detainees to give a new dimension to the outside approach, which restored the intifadah's vitality.

[Bakkariyah] Do you brief the Islamic factions inside the territories on the negotiations?

[Al-Hamyni] We try to put everybody in the picture of political activity. We meet with them and brief them on what we have reached. Sometimes we succeed and sometimes we do not.

[Bakkariyah] What is the final version of autonomy you would accept?

[Al-Hamyni] We are talking about an interim government, not autonomy. We want to move from the status of occupation to the Palestinian status.

[Bakkariyah] It has been reported that the results of the negotiations on the Palestinian track will appear before spring.

[Al-Hamyni] This is what the Israelis say and the Americans want. The Palestinian will is to have results before this.

Prospects for Talks With Israel, U.S. Noted

PM1112093392 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Dec 93 p3

[Mazin al-Saghir report: "Abu-Sharif: Rabin Will Persuade His Government To Meet With PLO Leadership"]

[Text] Tunis—Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, expects an official Palestinian-Israeli meeting to be held if the Knesset votes to rescind its decision banning contacts with the PLO. He told AL-HAYAH that annulment of that decision "would help alleviate the Israeli fear of the establishment of a Palestinian state and the Palestinian fear that Israel does not want to withdraw from their territory." He expects President-elect Bill Clinton's administration to continue to enhance the peace process after Clinton takes over at the White House. He expressed the belief that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin would be able to persuade his government to meet with the PLO leadership.

Asked if he expected any meetings between Israeli and Palestinian officials, he said that "if a decision is made permitting Israeli-PLO meetings, there would be no logical or legitimate reason why such meetings should not take place. We have frequently declared our readiness for such meetings at the highest level. I expect that such meetings will be held in some European and Scandinavian countries to begin with and then perhaps later in the Middle East. I do not rule out the possibility of such meetings culminating in a meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin."

Asked if such a meeting is still possible since Rabin's description of 'Arafat as "an obstacle to peace," Abu-Sharif said that "not everything Rabin says has political significance. I believe he is very eager to become a 'peace hero,' knowing that the time of wars is over and that Israeli economic conditions will worsen because of the world economic situation and, particularly, because of the U.S. internal conditions. If Israel wants to improve its economy or stop its deterioration then it has no alternative but to become a member of the Middle East

[group] which, as Rabin knows, is not possible unless Israel withdraws from the occupied territories and the Palestinians enjoy their full legitimate rights. I believe that Rabin will be able to convince his government of the necessity of meeting directly with the PLO to discuss the crucial issues of the matter."

On the possibility of a resumption of the U.S.-PLO dialogue, he said that "there is no logical reason why the dialogue should not be resumed. It is the duty of President George Bush to revive it before leaving the White House. That would boost the peace process." He said that the Palestinians are "bitter because the United States did not keep President Bush's promise that the Palestinians would have an authoritative self-government before the end of the year."

Resumption of U.S.-PLO Urged

TA1012180092 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 10 Dec 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "When Will Washington Resume Its Dialogue With the PLO?"]

[Text] Sources in our negotiating delegation affirm that the meetings of the eighth round in Washington are stagnating under the weight of Israeli intransigence, which is basically an extension of the seventh round. Hence, these sources see the need for direct U.S. intervention in this matter in order to overcome the impasse that has made these meetings a waste of time.

Despite the fact that this is a transition period in Washington between the administrations of George Bush and Bill Clinton, who will officially move into the White House on 20 January, this does not prevent the required U.S. intervention. Perhaps it reinforces this intervention and makes it inevitable. In addition, there is an urgent need for the resumption of the U.S. dialogue with the PLO.

The continued suspension of this dialogue has a clear adverse effect on the current negotiating process. It is certain that Israeli inflexibility stems frankly from the absence of an official U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, as if the Israeli side sees itself as justified in escalating its intransigence through the U.S. stubbornness—until now at least—in refusing to resume the dialogue with the PLO.

The Bush administration has repeatedly promised to resume this dialogue when the Israeli Government abolishes or amends what it has been called "the terrorism law" issued in 1986, which bans contacts between Israelis and PLO members. Since Yitzhaq Rabin's government actually managed to pass "the first reading" of this amendment a few days ago, it is logical for us to demand now that the promised U.S. stance be realized.

Therefore, the U.S. dialogue with the PLO should be resumed. U.S. indifference toward this issue will continue to reflect, in a grave way, on the negotiating and peace process.

Egypt

Russian Minister: Military Action Only Solution

NC1112093493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0707 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Dec (MENA)—Russian Foreign Minister Hurla Silpadzic has said that a UN-sponsored military action is the only way to stop the massacres perpetrated by the Serbs and end the tragedy of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In a statement to today's AL-AKHBAR, Silpadzic said that on proposals for a political solution, the Russian Government is looking forward to establishing "a modern, democratic, and multi-religious state" like all other European countries.

Any divisions along ethnic or religious lines will mean Bosnia- Herzegovina has no future, he said.

Israeli Agriculture Minister Holds News Conference

NC0912231093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2027 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Dec (MENA)—Israeli Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tsur has stated that he has a strong impression that Egypt and Israel agree on the need to make progress in the peace process on the basis of last year's Madrid conference.

At a news conference held this evening, he said that during his visit to Egypt he met with President Hosni Mubarak, Agriculture Minister Yusuf Wali, and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

In answer to a question, Tsur said that the existing settlements are not an obstacle to the peace talks, adding that the Israeli Government is greatly interested in the continuation of the talks.

The Israeli minister emphasized the importance of regional cooperation concerning water, noting that the Israeli and Jordanian sides are holding talks on the al-Yarmuk River water. Regarding cooperation between Egypt and Israel, especially in the agricultural field, the minister said that there is cooperation between the two countries in joint projects in conjunction with the United States. These are the joint research projects in the farms of al-Nubariyah, Maryut, and Juwaysah. There is also cooperation in the field of animal husbandry.

Agreement Signed With Israel

NC1012114792 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, and Israeli Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tsur today signed a joint statement on agricultural cooperation between the two countries at the end of the Israeli minister's visit to Egypt and the meeting of the Joint Agricultural Committee.

The committee was chaired by Engineer Ahmad Fu'ad Abu-Hadid, head of the General Commission of Construction and Agricultural Development Projects, and Dr. (Bahareve), adviser to the Israeli agriculture minister.

The statement called for exchanging expertise in various spheres of desert cultivation and development and the exchange of scientific research, particularly on modern irrigation methods, rationalizing water usage, planning guidance campaigns to develop garden and field crops, and setting up a $5 million unit for sorting, packing, and grading vegetables and fruits to step up export activity.

The statement also called for setting up a modern nursery for vegetables, fruits, decorative plants, and timber trees at a cost of $4 million.

Turkey's Ozal Offers To Mediate With Iran

NC1012213992 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—AL-SHA'B newspaper, mouthpiece of the opposition Labor Party, publishes the following report: Political sources have told AL-SHA'B that during his talks with President Mubarak in Cairo in the past few days, Turkish President Turgut Ozal offered to make efforts to curb the tension marking Egyptian-Iranian relations. Ozal noted that this can be done if Egypt agrees to attend meetings with Iranian officials in the Turkish capital, Ankara, in the near future. At these meetings, the two sides can discuss the various Egyptian accusations about Iran's support for terrorist operations.

The Turkish proposal notes that once the first phase of meetings—on the dimensions of terrorist operations—is concluded, the second phase—on issues pertaining to bolstering bilateral political relations—can begin.

The Turkish idea reiterates that the success of these meetings depends on two major factors: First, to halt mutual media campaigns; and second, to show a desire to resolve all the political differences between the two countries.

The sources note that the Turkish president expressed his belief that the differences between the two countries can be resolved and he called for avoiding the escalation of these differences so that the region can enjoy a period of stability.

Although the sources have not revealed the nature of the Egyptian response to the initiative, they said that the two presidents discussed the issue of Iran's armament and the threats the advanced Iranian programs pose to stability in neighboring countries. The sources point out that Ozal asserted that Iranian armament does not constitute a problem threatening security in neighboring countries.

Accord on Double Taxation Signed With ROK

SEK012011192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0046 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, Dec. 9 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and Egypt signed a convention on avoidance of double taxation and signed an cultural exchange program Wednesday.

The convention was signed by Korean Consul-general Pak Tong-soo and Egyptian Assistant Finance Minister Mahmoud Fathi Abdel Baqi, visted with Vice Foreign Minister Ho Chang-hoi's visit here. Officials said they expect the accord to boost South Korean businesses' entry into the Egyptian market.

The two countries have exchanged consulate-general but are yet to upgrade their relations to ambassadorial level because of Egypt's strong ties with North Korea.

Pak and Sami Abdel Rauf, Egyptian assistant foreign minister for cultural cooperation, agreed on a set of programs such as exchanging three students a year from next year and sharing information on tourism, arts and sports.

Meanwhile, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Mohammed Musa was quoted as telling Ho that there is no longer any obstacle to full diplomatic normalization and that normalization will be realized in the nearest future.

Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

MC1012222092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2022 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 10 Dec (MENA)—Uzbekistan Foreign Minister Uktamkhi Abdurrazzoqov arrived in Cairo this evening on a visit of several days.

While here, he will hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and senior Egyptian officials on preparations for Uzbekistan President Islom Karimov's visit to Egypt, which will begin on Monday.

The talks will deal also with bilateral relations and international issues.

Minister Abdurrazzoqov was received at the airport by Ambassador Ismat'il Mubarak, assistant foreign minister for European affairs.

U.S. Boycott of PLO Said 'Not Worthy' of Superpower

MC1012105692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 10 Dec (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR expresses surprise that the U.S. Administration is persisting in not holding contacts with the PLO.

In its editorial today, the paper writes that the U.S. stand of antagonism and boycotting the PLO is not worthy of a superpower, especially now that it is the only country with that title. It says the U.S. Administration's insistence on its stand on the PLO is pointless when Israel is moving toward amending its stand on the PLO by presenting a draft resolution to the Knesset to repeal the law enacted by Yitzhaq Shamir's government that bans contact with the PLO, which it considers a punishable crime.

AL-AKHBAR expresses the hope that President George Bush's meeting with the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks in Washington next week will mark the start of a change in the official U.S. stand on the PLO, which the world recognizes as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Sidqi Says State To Uproot Criminal 'Minority'

MC1012103592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 10 Dec (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said the Egyptian Government and people reject anything that harms stability and also the minority that attacks security by committing criminal acts that have nothing to do with religion. He said Egypt's institutions are not scared by these crimes and that crime has no future, because the Egyptian people reject it.

Speaking at last night's meeting of the ministerial committee following up the earthquake's consequences, Dr. Sidqi added: The state continues to uproot this minority. Anyone who thinks determination to resist criminality and uproot it will undermine stability in Egypt is wrong; the opposite is true. He noted that these criminal acts cannot be compared with those that happen daily in other capitals, East and West.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said this, adding that Dr. Sidqi supported the absence of several facts from reports by analysts and correspondents in the foreign media. He said the most important fact is that Egypt is a democratic country that never abandons or hesitates to respect and abide by democracy, freedom of opinion, and respect for the Constitution and law while resisting this minority.

The information minister added that Dr. Sidqi said the Egyptian people have values, a nature that rejects violence and terrorism, and honorable national morals that reject anyone who attempts to impose custodianship on it, adding that this was shown by the people when they shunned the criminal elements.

The prime minister spoke about the Egyptian people being pious by nature, believing in moderation and the correct values of Islam and all religions, making sacrifices, and confronting anyone who tries to harm national unity. He said history bears this out.

Dr. Sidqi noted that al-Azhar remains a beacon of enlightened Islam and that erroneous claims by some countries that do not understand or comprehend the true tenets of Islam are baseless.

The prime minister said President Mubarak's leadership is "historic," establishing on Egypt's soil the values of right, justice, respect for human rights, and action as well as construction for a comprehensive renaissance that raises values and increases its capabilities to remain the region's safety and stability valve. It also boosts the dignity and pride of its sons and the Arab and Islamic nation.

'Normalcy' Said Restored in Imbabah District

NC1012203892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 10 Dec (MENA)—Normalcy has been restored in Imbabah District in Giza Governorate following a two-day intensive security campaign to purge the district of the terrorist and extremist elements who turned certain areas of the district into dens—thinking that they were above the law—and imposed protection money on innocent citizens. [passage omitted]

An operations room was established in the al-Munirah Police Station under the command of Major General Ahmad Husni Bakr, assistant to the interior minister and Giza chief of security, to follow up the security situation. Radio devices were kept open to follow the troops' activity in various areas in Imbabah and their storming of crime and extremism dens all over the region, which houses many makeshift residential areas.

Maj. Gen. Bakr has asserted that the security campaign will continue to eliminate the terrorist and extremist phenomenon and what the terrorists call "Imbabah principedom" [Imarat Imbabah] and to enforce security and impose the state's control over the region. [passage omitted]

He added that a total of 85 search and combing operations were mounted today to apprehend the rest of these elements. He noted that 48 extremists were caught during these operations.

In a desperate attempt to prove themselves, two extremists riding a motorcycle threw burning objects inside two video clubs in Maabar al-'Ummal District and escaped after setting them on fire. The two clubs sustained slight damage when a number of video cassettes were burned. There were no injuries, however, among the citizens or workers.

Maj. Gen. Fuzi al-Habashi has stated that a plan has been worked out to protect all video clubs in the area against such childish acts.

A police officer spotted two suspicious people. When he tried to arrest them, one of them threw an explosive charge in his direction. The officer evaded the charge and managed to arrest one of the two suspects, Husni Ibrahim, who confessed that his escaped accomplice, Muhammad Mustafa, is an extremist. Attempts to catch the escaped suspect are under way.

The defendant also confessed against four other extremist elements who were later apprehended when the police stormed their hiding place in Bulaq al-Dakrur. Nine incendiary bombs, a jar of caustic soda, iron chains, and swords ready for use were found in their possession.

Brigadier General Muhammad Ibrahim, chief of the Giza investigation bureau, has said that the campaigns mounted today resulted in the arrest of 52 people who had escaped their sentences in various cases. They will be referred to prosecution, he said.

He asserted that the security organs possess valuable information that will lead to the apprehension of the culprits who hurled an incendiary bomb yesterday at Police Captain Muhsin 'Irfan and the soldier accompanying him. The officer suffered from bleeding in the left eye and burns on his leg and chest, while the soldier was seriously wounded in the abdomen, leg, and face.

A responsible security source has denied reports about the participation of 12,000 police soldiers in the security campaign in Imbabah. He said the figure is highly exaggerated. [passage omitted]

Council Appeals Administrative Court Ruling

NC1012165692 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1429 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 10 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—The Council on State Cases today filed an appeal with the state council's Supreme Administrative Court against the ruling given by the Civil Administrative Court annulling the president's decision to refer the two terrorist cases to the Supreme Military Court. The panel examining appeals in the Supreme Administrative Court is expected to set a court session in the next few days to consider the appeal.

The Council on State Cases under the presidency of Counselor 'Izzat Riyad said in its appeal to the court that when issuing the referral decision, the president did so in his capacity as state president with all his three powers [executive, legislative, and judicial] and that his decision in this case was judicial and beyond the jurisdiction of the state council, and only the Supreme Military Court has the jurisdiction to consider it. The petition about the lack of jurisdiction was actually raised before the Supreme Military Court and was rejected.

The council added that Article 48 of the military law grants the military prosecution alone the right to decide whether the crime is within its jurisdiction. The referral decision, which was annulled by the Civil Administrative Court, was fully implemented when the file of the case was handed over to the military prosecution, and therefore the ruling was inappropriate.

A responsible judicial source has told an AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY correspondent that the ruling of the Civil Administrative Court—which is a first instance

court—was issued contrary to an established ruling by the Supreme Administrative Court. This ruling stipulates that the president has the right to refer any case to the military court and that this is not limited to specific types of crimes, as the crime that justifies the referral might only emerge when something occurs that justifies the referral in light of its circumstances, time, and place, according to the provisions of the emergency law and military court laws judged by the constitutional court to be constitutional.

Sidqi Announces Economic Reform

NC1112081392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1603 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 10 Dec (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi today said the government will refer the unified law organizing the public, private, and investment sectors to the People's Assembly in [the final year] 1993-94. The new law will ensure equality, grant no privilege to any sector, and lead to more competition.

In remarks on Production Day, Dr. Sidqi said economic reform is not easy; it has massive problems. He said we still have a long way to go.

The prime minister said: We are preparing the Egyptian economy for growth within two or three years. Growth will be achieved without the intervention of any quarter, he remarked.

Dr. Sidqi said Egypt has begun to reap the fruits of economic reform. The balance of payments last year showed a surplus of 2.2 billion pounds [$660 million] and this surplus is expected to reach 6 billion pounds this year [$1.8 billion], reversing the deficit trend of previous years, Dr. Sidqi added.

The prime minister said the public budget deficit in 1992-93 will be 3.5 percent compared with 18 percent in 1986. The deficit reduction was achieved through increased taxation and better collection of taxes. The increase in public revenue coincided with a reduction in public expenditure, leading to a lower budget deficit. The deficit is expected to drop by one more percentage point, said Dr. Sidqi.

He said the economic reform measures have had some negative aspects. One was that the imposition of ceilings on bank loans slowed down investment, but these ceilings were fully revised this year. Inflation also worsened in the early years of the reform program, but is slowing down. The wages of government and public sector employees are being increased to offset inflation. The private sector has not been harmed by inflation, he pointed out. The prime minister said the abolition of price controls on agricultural products raised farmers incomes by more than inflation.

Dr. Sidqi added that wages increased by 20 percent this year, a bigger increase than the country's current 16.5-percent rate of inflation.

Another negative aspect of economic reform, the prime minister said, was that local production had to face stronger competition from abroad. This problem is being addressed by adopting flexible tariff system that considers local business needs and provide protection and stimulus for local production. The tariff system will involve higher duties on manufactured goods than on machines and production material. This system will be in line with the GATT agreement to which Egypt is committed.

The prime minister said the reform process was not confined to the economy, but had social aspects too, because the government aims to achieve comprehensive reform. The government, he noted, has increased budget allocations for the service sectors, such as education, social security, and health insurance. Egypt's expenditure on these sectors surpasses that of other countries, he said.

Administrative reform and retraining will be a priority, Dr. Sidqi said. He pointed out that comprehensive social and administrative reform would enhance the success of economic reform. Dr. Sidqi said economic reform aims to increase and improve production and enhance living conditions. Economic reform, he pointed out, is the true guarantee of progress.

Addressing fears of the threat of foreign competition to domestic production, the prime minister said that while the country is committed to free trade, the government will not be indifferent to the needs of local business. The government will protect local production through the use of tariffs and exchange and interest rates. The government will use tariff duties to protect local products, but it will not resort to banning or imposing quotas on imports.

The prime minister said the ultimate protection for domestic products is their quality and competitiveness. He pointed out that the quality of Egyptian goods has greatly improved in recent years and that in many instances the competitiveness of local products has been nothing short of impressive.

Nasirite Party Head Replaced; Headquarters Stormed

NC0113084792 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 7 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] The Nasirite Party has announced that it has withdrawn confidence from Diya'-al-Din Dawud and has elected Muhammad Rif'at al-Mahdawi to replace him as party secretary general.

The Nasirite Party's Central Committee held a news conference yesterday [6 December], during which al-Mahdawi announced that he was elected to replace Dawud as party secretary general until the party's general congress is held.

Al-Mahdawi's force includes Farid 'Abd-al-Karim, Amin Hawaydi, Muhammad al-Bahnasawi, Ahmad 'Aql, Ahmad Shahayb, and Ahmad al-Jamasi.

The Diya'-al-Din Dawud group stormed the party's headquarters in 'Abbadin on Friday to prevent meetings of the breakaway wing led by al-Abbadani.

Libya

Security Council Extends Sanctions

LD1012143392 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1013 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Tripoli, 10 Dec. (JANA)—At an unofficial meeting held by the Security Council yesterday, the ambassador of India, who chairs the council this month, said that following the topics raised during the consultations the council did not agree that the basic conditions were available to cancel or even the measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah by Resolution 748. This came in a statement read by the chairman of the council yesterday.

This step comes at a time when the Libyan Arab people were requesting the Security Council to realize that this was a great falsification of facts and therefore lift its inhuman sanctionary measures imposed against the Great Jamahiriyah by virtue of its unjust Resolution No. 748. In addition to the fact that it is considered as a violation of international law and the UN Charter because it lacks any moral or legal foundation, and in addition to the fact that it no longer has any justification, its continuation of the imposition of these unjust measures repeatedly ignores the will of the international community, which on every occasion, through its regional and international organizations, has angrily called for the lifting of these unjust measures, pointing the civilized nature of the style that has distinguished the Great Jamahiriyah's dealing with the arab homeland it and the Western states. Likewise, the insistence on continuing to impose these measures constitutes blatant double standards by the Security Council. The fact is that at a time when the sanctionary measures against the Great Jamahiriyah are extended without justification, donations, loans, and aid are being lavished on the Zionist enemy which has ignored more than 30 international resolutions against it, and the Security Council has not lifted a finger.

Foreign Liaison Bureau Statement

LD1112190892 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Dec (JANA)—The General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation issued yesterday a statement on the disagreement within the UN Security Council that continues extend to lift the [sanctionary] sanctions imposed against the Great Jamahiriyah in accordance with the unjust UN Security Council Resolution 747. The following is the text of the statement:

The General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International cooperation, while expressing strong indignation at the continuation of the sanctions, which have been imposed against the Libyan people despite the divergence of opinion shown during the consultations among Security Council members, a matter that has confirmed that the measures and initiatives undertaken by the great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in implementation of the 1992 Security Council Resolution 731 were welcomed and well received by the the Security Council itself and in consultations to the hard stances adopted by a number of countries without paying due consideration to the practical measures taken by the great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to implement Security Council Resolution 731;

While the plight of the Libyan Arab people continues as a result of the sanctions, which have been imposed in implementation of the unjust 1992 Security Council Resolution 748, the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah has, nonetheless, exerted every effort and used every means to reaffirm its commitment to justice and adherence to international law within a framework of constructive dialogue and understanding without recourse to the language of threat and reporting, like all other countries, that this would lead to the lifting of sanctions against it.

Despite all that, the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation reaffirms the following:

The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah adhered to Resolution 731 in all its aspects and informed the UN secretary general of all the measures it adopted to implement the resolution; the only remaining aspect was the issue of investigation and the trial of the two suspects.

Cooperation was achieved with Britain regarding the investigations it oversaw of terrorism, and Britain affirmed that cooperation.

The criticism is still open to the French judge to come to the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in a correct manner; discussions is still going on with the French Foreign Ministry in order for the judge to pay the visit and complete the investigation.

While there is no divergence regarding the impartial and just trial of the two suspects, dialogue must be held with regard to the venue of this trial. We hope that this can be achieved as soon as possible.

The continuation of the sanctions imposed on the Libyan Arab people, with all the suspects and concerns that the Libyan people obviously expressed and the initiatives they presented vis-a-vis the resolutions issued by the regional and International organizations in this regard, are considered harmful to the Libyan Arab people and contradict the most basic human rights.

Demonstrators Protest Decision

LD1012153292 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Various towns in the Great Jamahiriyah witnessed today mass angry demonstrations in protest

against the UN Security Council [UNSC] resolution to maintain the mandatory sanctions against the Great Jamahiriyah in accordance with the unjust Resolution 748, and against the UNSC decision to extend these measures.

The angry masses marched through the streets and squares; they denounced this resolution and called for an immediate lifting of its coming punitive measures. The participants at rallies of anger brandished banners which expressed their rejection of this resolution that violates all international laws and charters. The angry masses also carried the green flag and portrait of the leader of the revolution and shouted: Long live the leader. They renewed their continuous and permanent readiness to follow steadily and confidently the path of the aims of the Great al-Fatih Revolution; and their eternal commitment to the power of the people, who alone control the power; and preach the eternal and humanitarian thinking of the third international theory of the guide of emancipation. The masses declared their everlasting commitment to use all force in the defense of the revolution of the Great al-Fatih and its leader; and firmly confront anybody who dares to harm the great and civilized achievements which have been realized for the Libyan Arab people in all fields. The people's masses issued the following statement:

We, the masses of the Basic People's Congresses [BPC] in the Great Jamahiriyah, who today stage demonstrations of anger and condemnation against the UNSC statement, which included the extension of the unjust embargo against it, emphasize that the UN, under the influence of strong powers, is no longer an organization where the world's small and great nations take [sentence as heard] It has become a docile instrument used by these strong powers to impose unjust and mandatory measures against small peoples to force them to submit and impose their dominations against them, as is the case of the Libyan Arab people who today suffer from the consequences of an unjust resolution, and from the material and moral effects.

Thousands of babies are dying because of a lack of medicine and vaccines; hundreds of patients are dying along the land border as they are transported via land to neighboring states for treatment and life-saving operations. It has become impossible to send our blood specimens for tests, in addition to the volume of the material damage suffered by institutions on productivity and services as a result of a shortage of raw material, and the blockade of international operations and dealings which link the Jamahiriyah with the rest of the world.

The masses of the BPCs who today stage this demonstration stress their strong condemnation against this stance of the UN regarding all the solutions which were submitted by the Great Jamahiriyah and even the concessions, which it could have not given regarding this issue. It took this position out of its civilized desire to contribute toward settling international problems and crises in a way that would lead to the prevalence of peace and stability in the world.

Libya, which had deployed all its efforts to solve a problem in which it had no relation from the beginning, would like to denounce vehemently all forms of terrorism. It condemns all types of acts of violence. At the same time, it rejects the fact that it should be the target of this official material and moral terrorism which is targeted against it today either through the UNSC or through the powers behind it.

While the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah expresses today its utmost indignation regarding the extension of the air embargo against it, it would like to emphasize to all the peoples and governments of the world the reality of its civilized and humanitarian position vis-a- vis world issues. It also announces that it strongly rejects the practice of any form of domination or attempts of submission against it; it announces that it is free in its choices; it is ready to die for the sake of its dignity and freedom. It would like to stress the following points to the UN: 1) The embargo resolution is a fundamentally unjust resolution and contravenes all international charters and the text of the UN Charter. 2) Out of its desire for international peace and security, Libya has tabled all possible solutions, and that the states concerned had refused to cooperate. Consequently, responsibility lies with these states. The renewal of the embargo against Libya is totally unjustified. 3) Libya has no relation with the matter from the beginning. It had offered to cooperate just out of respect for the UN appeal and out of respect for the international community. 4) We call on small states to leave the UN and form an international front for the defense of the rights of small peoples, who have become stifled inside the UN.

Forward we go, may the revolutionary struggle continue.

Al-Mountasir on Lockerbie Trials, Ties with Egypt

NC0912091092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Dec (MENA)—'Umar al-Mountasir, Libyan secretary for external liaison and international cooperation, foreign minister, has declared that his country recognizes the importance of the trial of the two Libyan suspects involved in the Lockerbie issue. He said his country even insists on this trial because it is fully confident of their innocence. He said the trial's outcome will prove their innocence.

In statements to MENA, al-Mountasir said: There is no dispute over the two suspects' standing trial before an impartial court. The dispute lies only in the venue of the trial, he added.

In his statements, the first after assuming his post a few days ago, al-Mountasir said: The parties concerned did not cooperate with us over the venue for the trial. They

insist on having the trial in the United States or Scotland. We believe the suspects should decide. They are entitled to give themselves up to any side that is impartial and objective, including Scotland and the United States. Al-Mounnir said Libya does not object to holding the trial in these two countries.

The Libyan secretary said Libya proposed holding the trial in a neutral country acceptable to all parties. Libya also expressed its readiness to offer all the requested facilities, but the other sides did not respond to this suggestion, he added.

In his statements to MENA, al-Mounnir said: Libya has adhered to the decision and we have informed UN Secretary General Dr. Butros Butros-Ghali of all our procedures to implement the decision. What remains are the conditions surrounding investigations and the trial of the suspects.

The Libyan secretary for external liaison and international cooperation detailed the steps his country has taken to implement UN Security Council Resolution 731. He said everything the decision stipulates—mainly renouncing terrorism—has been implemented, and Britain—as it has admitted—has already received all the information on that.

As for cooperation with France, al-Mounnir said: A Libyan judge visited Paris twice and conveyed all the information we have. The French investigating magistrate is welcome to come to Libya, but this should be done in an appropriate manner. Talks are continuing with the French Foreign Ministry on the judge's visit and the completion of investigations.

Al-Mounnir reiterated that the Libyan authorities do not object to holding the trial on the blowing up of the French aircraft, even inside France. As for the United States and Britain, the suspects are free to choose the trial venue.

Asked about a UN official source's statement that Dr. Butros-Ghali expects a ranking Libyan delegation for talks with the United Nations on the implementation of the Security Council resolution, 'Umar al-Mounnir said: If need be, I am ready to go to New York or anywhere.

The Libyan official said: Now that Libya has responded to the contents of the Security Council resolution, there are no more excuses for continuing the air blockade on Libya. He said he was optimistic about the possibility of reaching a solution acceptable to all parties. He said: Our intention is good and we are endeavoring to demonstrate the truth. It is in Libya's interest to cooperate with everyone and there is no doubt the other side is also interested in this cooperation. We harbor no enmity toward anyone and, consequently, we will reach a solution acceptable to all through rational behavior and logic.

The Libyan secretary praised Egyptian-Libyan relations and the outcome of Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif's recent visit to Libya. He said there are constant contacts between President Husni Mubarak and Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, which will always produce positive results.

Al-Mounnir praised the efforts of UN Secretary General Dr. Butros-Ghali, noting that they will remain constructive. The world has enough problems that have been draining its capabilities. These capabilities should be utilized to build and serve man's interests. As long as intentions are good, we will reach a solution, al-Mounnir added.

Opposition Criticizes Al-Qadhdhafi 'Procrastination'

PM0912151492 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Dec 92 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Opposition: Al-Qadhdhafi's Procrastination Brings Tragedies for Libyans"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—The Permanent Bureau and Leading Committee of the Libyan National Salvation Front (the main faction in the Libyan opposition) held a joint meeting lasting several days. A number of issues related to developments in the Libyan issue were discussed.

A spokesman for the Front said that "the Permanent Bureau and Leading Committee discussed with extreme interest recent developments in the Pan Am and UTA aircraft crisis in the light of the statements issued by the three Western states directly concerned with the matter and in the light of the U.S. freezing of a number of banks and investments company in which Libya is involved. They saw that these measures and statements prove the failure of the play-for-time and procrastination policy pursued by al-Qadhdhafi and which is bound to lead to nothing but further tragedies and disasters for the Libyan people. Necessity requires that al-Qadhdhafi leave power in Libya in view of his regime's clear inability to resolve the crisis with the Security Council. The Front sent a memorandum in this connection to the Security Council's presidents and members."

He added: "The Permanent Bureau and Leading Committee also discussed what was said in al-Qadhdhafi's speech to the General People's Congress. In this connection the front emphasizes that implementing the so-called commissars is nothing but an attempt to fragment the country and sow the seeds of problems and disputes which he wants to lead to civil war. While the Front is amazed by al-Qadhdhafi's call to the Libyans to leave their country and move to other neighboring countries, especially in view of the capabilities and money Libya has, with which it could achieve self-sufficiency for its people, and while the Front denounces this suspect call, it is convinced that it is al-Qadhdhafi and his aides who should leave—unreservedly—Libya's territory."

Sudan

Friendship Council Hails UN Somalia Resolution

EA0912151792 Khartoum SUNA in English 1033 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Dec (SUNA)—The secretary-general of the International Peoples Friendship Council, Dr Mustafa 'Uthman, has condemned Sudan's harassment for the stability of situations in Somalia and for ending the ongoing conflict there, hoping that the Somalis could reach a national reconciliation between the warring factions. Sudan is always declaring this desire in all the regional gatherings, Dr 'Uthman said.

Dr 'Uthman said that Sudan is observing the implementation of the U.N. Resolution concerning sending of international troops to Somalia, hoping that the resolution could realize stability in Somalia and could be able to relieve the needy peoples there in order to enable the Somalis to determine their future.

Chairman Khalifah Meets U.S. Official on Somalia

EA1012173092 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Mohammed al-Amin Khalifah, chairman of the Transitional National Assembly, stressed during a meeting with Herman Cohen, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, who is currently on a visit to the country, that Sudan welcomed the humanitarian operation to supply food to thousands of starving people in Somalia, victims of the civil war there. He added that Sudan rejects the exploitation of disasters for political ends. He said Sudan had set aside part of its produce and continued to provide humanitarian supplies for the Somali and other peoples without interfering in their affairs, this being based on the established guidelines of Sudanese foreign policy and the declared principles of Sudan's international relations.

The U.S. official said that his country would not intervene in the Somali people's options and that they were free to make their own political decisions without interference from any quarter. He said the intervention in Somalia had been based on purely humanitarian motives. The U.S. assistant secretary of state said that Sudan was one of the leading states in the region and, therefore, must be consulted and participate in the maintenance of the region's stability.

Khalifah expressed Sudan's wish for the international community, led by the United States, to intervene with a view to halting the oppression and suppression in Bosnia-Herzegovina because of the atrocities being perpetrated there, pointing out that the application of double standards would arouse feelings of (?mistrust) and hatred among the peoples and rejection of help [words indistinct] even if it was extended on a humanitarian basis.

Referring to the UN resolution on human rights in Sudan, Khalifah expressed regret that such a resolution had been adopted and described it as hasty and astonishing inasmuch as Sudan's human rights record was impeccable and, on this basis, Sudan acted out of its upright principles. His excellency said the UN resolution on human rights in Sudan was based on negative reporting.

Foreign Minister Meets Cohen

EA0912222592 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Mr. Ali Ahmed Sahhid, the foreign minister, met in his office today with Mr. Herman Cohen, the American assistant secretary of state for foreign [as heard] affairs, with whom he discussed relations between the two countries and ways of strengthening and developing them. Mr. Cohen explained that he was visiting Sudan to explain that the policy of intervention was being applied in Somalia with the aim of extending security, achieving stability, and ensuring the delivery of food to the Somali people.

His excellency arrived in Khartoum this morning.

Western Sahara

Morocco Accused of Sabotaging Geneva Talks

LD0912182092 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz yesterday met a delegation representing Saharan notables. On the subject and details of the meeting, our radio correspondent sent us this report from Tindouf:

[Unidentified correspondent] The Saharan delegation was made up of the 19 Saharan notables who are now back from Geneva, Switzerland, following a series of meetings that they were supposed to hold from 30 of November to 1 December along with the other delegations of Saharan notables from the Moroccan-occupied territories. The meetings that were supposed to be held in preparation for a UN-supervised referendum, within the framework of peace in Western Sahara, through its representative Yaqub Khan who was present as a supervisor, never actually did take place. The official spokesman of the Saharan delegation back from Geneva made the following statement on the reason why the meetings failed.

[Begin unidentified spokesman recording] I would like to underline some points or secrets behind the position of Morocco, which had come to the meetings with a hidden intent to blow them up so that it would not have to participate in them by [word indistinct] transgressing the text and spirit of the UN letter that was the basis of the

invitation to both sides and that included the list of children registered by the Spanish authorities, although each side had to choose the required number from that list. We met these criteria and conditions, while Morocco did not meet or respect them, as it sent a delegation comprising 19 members, among which 12 were registered on the Spanish list, while seven others had nothing to do with it from close or afar. On the basis of this clear and flagrant violation, it had become impossible for the meeting to take place between two equal sides representing the same Saharan people. [end recording]

[Correspondent] That was a statement by the official spokesman of the Saharan delegation, which is back from Geneva on the failure of the meetings.

Kuwait

Minister on Help Promised by U.S. Congressmen

LD1112042692 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Information Minister Sa'ud Nasir Sa'ud al-Sabah announced that U.S. congressmen promised to make every possible effort to help release Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees held in the jails of the Iraqi regime. The information minister told KUNA yesterday, following a visit to a number of U.S. congressmen, that he discussed with them the problem of Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees along with the present and future situation in the Gulf region. [passage omitted]

He expressed confidence that relations between Kuwait and the United States will continue and prosper during the administration of President-elect Bill Clinton.

Information Minister Interviewed on Media Policy

LD1112095392 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Dec 92 p 5

[Interview with Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah by Nasir al-Mutayri in Kuwait; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Mutayri] How do you visualize the features of Kuwait's future information strategy in the light of current conditions and factors at the local, regional, and international levels?

[Al-Sabah] In the light of current conditions and factors, the features of Kuwait's present and future information strategy are determined by important issues and the vital interests of the state and society in Kuwait. Among these vital issues and interests is the issue of the Kuwait prisoners and hostages held in the Iraqi tyrant's jails. This issue is at the top of the priorities of the Kuwaiti information effort in particular and state and society in general.

The same applies to the issue of internal and external security. Our priorities include providing security for our people inside the country against any terrorist action or conspiracies hatched against this security. And also protecting Kuwait's borders against any foreign threat, in addition to continuing to reinforce the building and reconstruction policies at all economic, social, educational, and cultural levels. And we do not, of course, forget the informational aspects. We draw up the necessary plans to develop them so that they will rise to the level to the aims we aspire to achieve.

And Kuwait's affiliation to Arabism and Islam has made its commitment to Arab issues a principal pillar in its informational awareness, conduct, and plans. The same applies to Kuwait's commitments and principles toward all human issues and the principles of justice, right, and peace. [passage omitted]

[Al-Mutayri] With regard to the Kuwaiti press, how do you view its present course, especially after you guaranteed for it all assurances of freedom and publication by abolishing "Article 35" of the publication law and lifting censorship on it? And is there any intention of opening the door to granting licenses for publishing newspapers in Kuwait?

[Al-Sabah] The Kuwaiti press is the object of our pride because of its good reputation in our Arab world and the world as a whole, its role in enlightenment and development, and its commitment to providing advanced journalistic services for local and Arab readers.

Out of Kuwait's belief in the vital role of its press, Kuwait abolished "Article 35" of the publication law concerning administrative suspension. It also lifted censorship on the press after the conditions which prompted the imposition of censorship disappeared. Everyone knows these conditions. And I believe that there is nothing now to prevent the Kuwaiti press from playing its role in the perfect manner it wants.

Our assessment of the present course of our press proceeds from this point—that is, the disappearance of the obstacles imposed by conditions. Thus we expect a more vital and active role from the Kuwaiti press and more distinctive journalistic services for the reader.

With regard to opening the door to granting licenses for publishing newspapers, this is premature, and I do not believe that it ranks among the informational priorities in official and popular thinking, at least now. This is because of the existence of seven dailies and a number of weeklies. When we believe there is a need to consider this matter, we will do so without any hesitation. But there are important priorities which must be focused on now before anything else.

[Al-Mutayri] And what truth is there in the claim that there are government and opposition newspapers in Kuwait? And how does the information ministry deal with Kuwaiti newspapers in the light of the closure of the SAWT AL-KUWAYT and AL-FAJR AL-JADID newspapers?

[Al-Sabah] Some people might like to classify the Kuwait newspapers as government newspapers and opposition newspapers. But certainly this classification does not exist as a criterion in the information ministry's literature. And everyone knows that most of the Kuwaiti newspapers are privately owned, and their owners are free in running and guiding them. But during the occupation there was a pressing need for newspapers to speak in Kuwait's name and defend the justice of its cause. This is why the SAWT AL-KUWAYT newspaper emerged. And after the liberation the need emerged for a daily newspaper to convey news to the people because there were no privately owned newspapers at the time, as the invaders destroyed the newspapers' buildings and looted the privately owned and other printing houses. This is why the information ministry set up AL-FAJR AL-JADID.

As the conditions which prompted the government to support these two newspapers disappeared, the financial

support for SAWT AL-KUWAYT was suspended, and the publication of the AL-FAJR AL-JADID will be suspended as of the end of the month.

Saudi Arabia

King Authorizes Involvement in Somali Operation

LD1012164492 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1505 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Jeddah, 10 Dec (SPA)—An authoritative source passed the following statement to SPA:

Proceeding from the Saudi Government's welcome of UN Security Council Resolution 794—providing for the dispatch of an international force to Somalia to secure the arrival of humanitarian aid to the Somali people, who have been weakened by famine and disease—and out of the anxiousness of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, to continue the role played by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia since the start of the events in offering continuous financial and material relief aid by air and sea to the Somali people, the beloved king, the supreme commander of the Saudi Armed Forces, has instructed his royal highness the defense and aviation minister and inspector general to send a Saudi force to participate in this humanitarian duty in accordance with the aforementioned resolution and within the unified command decided by the Security Council.

Yemen

Prime Minister on Economic Situation, Riots

JN1112154592 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas has explained that the government has taken numerous steps to tackle the economic conditions in the country, guarantee food supplies, check price hikes, and prevent speculation in the currency exchange market which affects the stability of the Yemeni economy.

Answering a number of questions posed by the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, SABA' and Television Channel One, he said that since its establishment on 22 May 1990, the Republic of Yemen has inherited difficult and complicated economic conditions. These conditions were further complicated by regional and international developments in 1991. Despite the events that took place and their negative implications on the Yemeni economy, the government has made huge efforts to guarantee the stability of the economic conditions in the Republic of Yemen, particularly guaranteeing full stability, and then proceeding to tackle economic conditions in a comprehensive manner aimed at strengthening the national economy's production base, since economic strength and advancement depend on the development of the economic base.

The brother prime minister added: The cabinet and the Higher Economic Affairs Council have discussed this issue on several occasions and in expanded meetings, in addition to the meetings with the Presidential Council last year to discuss this issue. Through the efforts of the government and the specialized agencies, we have managed to maintain the Yemeni economy and its development. In the years 1990, 1991, and 1992, the government [words indistinct] and provide the materials needed by the Yemeni citizen.

The prime minister stressed the role played by the supervisory and monitoring agencies and the need to mete out heavy punishment on anyone who violates or messes around with prices and economic conditions.

Regarding the riots and strikes witnessed over the past two days in a number of areas, the prime minister said he regrets what happened, stressing that these acts do not reflect a genuine commitment to the exercise of democracy, which has become the course of the new Yemeni state after the establishment of the Republic of Yemen.

He said: Democracy means the correct behavior through the expression of opinion, and it includes obligations and rights at the same time. What happened recently cannot be considered objective acts. These acts do not take the national interest into account; nor do they take into account the (?ability) of the Yemeni citizen and his defense of his rights by expressing his opinion in the correct manner. What happened also harmed the citizens' interests and the national economy, and even the life of the average Yemeni citizen.

Situation Said Under Control

JN1112072892 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0630 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] The casualty toll from the past two days of bloody clashes between security forces and demonstrators in several Yemeni cities over the high cost of living has reached 11 killed and 48 injured. This figure was announced by the Yemeni Interior Ministry, which mentioned that security forces have succeeded in controlling the situation, particularly in Sanaa, Ta'izz, and al-Hudaydah. The Interior Ministry added that 250 demonstrators have been arrested on charges of fomenting riots and are currently being interrogated.

11 Dead, 48 Hurt Since 9 Dec

NC1112004892 Paris AFP in English 0930 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Sanaa, Dec 11 (AFP)—Security forces opened fire to disperse thousands of demonstrators for the second day running here Friday, a witness said.

"There's a lot of shooting" said the witness, who was near the souk where the demonstration began.

Police and troops moved in to break up the demonstration, but the protestors regrouped soon after, he said.

Clashes at anti-government demonstrations over soaring prices have left 11 dead and 48 wounded in the cities of

Sanaa, Ta'izz and al-Hudaydah since Wednesday, according to an interior ministry toll.

Plot to Kill Socialist Party Leaders Alleged

PM0912155892 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Dec 92 pp1, 4

['Abd-al-Rahman al-Haydari report: "Yemeni Socialist Party Uncovers Plot for Assassination of Its Leaders"]

[Excerpt] Sanaa—A Yemeni Socialist Party source told AL-HAYAH yesterday that "elements recruited to carry out acts of sabotage and assassination were recently supervised after surveillance of several vehicles repeatedly seen near a number of Socialist Party headquarters in various provinces of the republic." The Socialist Party is one of the two ruling parties in Yemen.

The source said that "a number of those assigned to carry out these acts of sabotage and assassination contacted the Yemeni Socialist Party and revealed the tasks assigned to them and the names of those who gave them the orders to carry out these acts against a large number of the Yemeni Socialist Party's leaders in the capital Sanaa and other provinces."

He also said that "the leaders targeted included Jarallah 'Umar, member of the party's Political Bureau and head of its Foreign Relations Committee, and Brigadier General Haithem Qasim Tahir, Political Bureau member and defense minister."

The source added that the operations were planned while Presidential Council Deputy Chairman 'Ali Salim al-Bid was away in Aden. [passage omitted]

UK's Douglas Hogg Confers With Top Officials

Meets With Council Speaker

JN0912200892 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Council of Representatives Speaker brother Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man today received Douglas Hogg, British minister for foreign and commonwealth affairs, and the delegation accompanying him. At the beginning of the meeting, the Council of Representatives speaker welcomed the British minister for foreign and commonwealth affairs and his companions, wishing them a pleasant stay in our country. He voiced his hope that the visit will achieve its goals of serving the joint interests of the Yemeni and British peoples. He then reviewed the Yemeni people's experience in restoring their unity and establishing their young Yemeni Republic, as well as the special characteristics of that experience. He also touched the steps our country is taking toward bolstering the bases of democratic life, referring to the parliament's role in this regard.

The Council of Representatives speaker also noted the preparations being made to ensure the success of the first parliamentary elections after the consultation.

For his part, the British minister for foreign and commonwealth affairs expressed his happiness with his visit to our country and the opportunity to acquaint himself with the Yemeni people's achievements and the changes they are making at this stage. He then voiced his appreciation for efforts to uphold democratic life in all areas related to people's lives. He also expressed his country's readiness to promote cooperation between the two friendly countries in areas of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by Council of Representatives members Sa'id Muhammad al-Hubishi and 'Ali Muqbil Ghulsbayn, State Minister for Foreign Affairs 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, Deputy Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Qadir, British Ambassador to Yemen Mark Marshall, a number of Council of Representatives members, and Foreign Ministry cadres.

Talks With Foreign Minister

JN0912201692 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] The Yemeni side led by Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani and the British side led by Douglas Hogg, minister for foreign and commonwealth affairs, held a round of talks at the Foreign Ministry in Sanaa today. They reviewed aspects of bilateral relations and ways to promote them in the interest of both friendly countries. They also discussed regional and international developments and issues of common interest. Attending the talks on the Yemeni side were Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of state for foreign affairs; 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Qadir, deputy foreign minister; and Ahmad Dawlibah, Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs. On the British side, they were attended by British Ambassador to Sanaa Mark Marshall and a number of officials.

Discusses Issues With Salih

JN1012111092 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received in [word indistinct] Douglas Hogg, British minister for foreign and commonwealth affairs. The talks, during the meeting, dealt with regional and international developments [words indistinct] and recent developments in the region. The talks also dealt with bilateral issues and ways to develop cooperation between the two friendly countries.

The British minister expressed his admiration for the democratic experiment and political and party pluralism, assuring Britain's support for the democratic line followed by our country and expressing hope that the coming parliamentary elections will succeed.

The meeting was attended by brother Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of state for foreign affairs; the British Foreign Ministry under secretary for Middle East affairs; and the British ambassador to Sanaa.

Saddam Addresses Arab Intellectuals 9 Dec

JN1012201592 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1049 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Speech by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn during a meeting with Arab intellectuals who had recently taken part in a seminar held by the Culture and Information Bureau of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Baghdad on 9 December—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] May God bless Arabs. Blessed be your intellectual seminar. And here, we would like to start by saying that it is impermissible for anyone to think that he is incapable of playing the role of a faithful hero. The opportunities available to each and every Arab are linked to certain circumstances. Whoever believes in the inevitable victory of the nation and remains optimistic about such an eventuality—even when his hands are shackled in a prison cell in Palestine and he can do nothing else except be held there—is a hero. By the same token, we deem to be a hero the soldier who cannot take up arms in the face of aggression for whatever reasons or conditions—when the aggression is somewhere in the nation's homeland and he is incapable of crossing borders to reach the trenches of the combatants who are confronting the aggression at a time when he believes in the very cause being vindicated by these combatants. In the same vein, whoever writes an article into which he puts all the honesty he possesses, as well as the wishes of and desire for an Arab victory vindicating any given issue troubling the minds or in the face of the nation's enemies—to absolve the nation of a burdensome legacy that has been weighing heavy on its chest for hundreds of years—to free the psyches of contemptible remnants, to build the requirements of life in accordance with a proper doctrine, and to confront the nation's enemies who are lying in wait to destabilize it and violate its sovereignty, dignity, pan-Arab honor, or the requirements of its people's survival—whoever writes an article honestly—and can do nothing else is also a hero.

The interaction of all these factors within the nation creates the heroism of the nation. A writer, a poet, an engineer, or let us say a student, who finds no other way to express his allegiance to the cause of his nation except to concentrate on his studies so he can become an active member of society—it is natural that this student shows sympathy with a smuggler who bears arms in defense of his cause, just like a fighter in the arena of construction when he bears the honor of responsibility for field construction. They all proceed from their feeling that their nation is one nation and that it should, or must, have the necessary factors to become the nation of the message, although these people differ in the actions they take in accordance with their different circumstances.

Let me explain once again why I describe it as the Arabs' experiment in Iraq, and not Iraq's action alone. I know, and I am not exaggerating when I say this, that those whom you describe deserve your description. Sometimes, you even exaggerate in your description to the extent that I fear you might spoil some of them because we always want them to be balanced in their outlook on life and in their role in serving the nation. They should always feel that history is greater than they are, and that the symbols in the history of our nation are always higher in their performance, level, and sacrifices.

Had the nation's spirit not been present and victorious in history in this deep and live sense; had there been no spiritual interaction between the present and the past, regarding the requirements of deep, real interaction for those who believe in their nation and its role; and had officials not loved their people and nation and understood the history of their nation and interacted with it, they would not have attained their current status. Had they been only Iraqis, they would not have achieved this level of faith and the action associated with it. For every country in this nation to achieve a status that befits it, it should keep in mind that it is part of a great nation that is larger than it and has a higher status, and that its great symbols are an example of any action. It is in this spirit that we can become active patriots capable of having influence, and nationalists without making a historical error in our thinking and [word indistinct].

With this meaning in mind, we say that the genuine patriot should be pan-Arab. One can only be a genuine patriot if he must continue to be so at all times and not only in certain circumstances. He must be a genuine and faithful patriot. Why? Because our nation is one nation. This is not an invention, or a deduction. It is a fact like any other fact, like any nation in any part of the world, like, for example, the French nation. Is it permissible for a Frenchman to believe in his town and not in France and not to safeguard his national identity? The answer is no. Our nation is one nation. When our ideology and actions get confined to any one part of this nation, our patriotism weakens because we cannot translate the ideology as it should be translated, and we cannot make our actions proceed from this confinement to perpetuate them.

Iraq's strength today stems, first of all, from its faith in God Almighty, and the belief that God is higher than all and more capable than anyone. However, this faith is that of our mission and not just an inherited faith. It is the faith based on action, confidence, and aspirations and not the faith of submission and imitation or a rehashing of what was inherited. It is a creation of a state within the framework of what was was inherited.

With this meaning in mind, let me tell you that we do not disagree. The Arabs can never disagree on this reality. But the disagreement can only be on the approach. Your country's strength lies in its faith and its realization that, after having interacted with the nation's history, the models it is carrying are the examples it should follow.

If anyone did something extraordinary, he must not think that he is better than the symbols of the past, but rather he is on his way to reaching them. When a woman

from Algeria or Tunisia unless an appeal, thousands of guns fire at the aggressors. An expression or talk of solidarity with Iraq from an Arab in a cafe shop in Mauritania could urge people to send more food trucks to us. We feel that we are performing our duty, which is only a step on the road, and not the ultimate destination.

On this occasion, I would like to explain some of the situations we have experienced, and perhaps, they were misunderstood by some sides. When we say that we are struggling for the sake of liberating the nation, then I honestly mean liberating it from itself, liberating it from the inherited burdens which could undermine its gracious pillars. We mean liberating it so it will be able to play its true role. There is also a feeling that we have liberated; namely, that when Almighty God enabled us to assume power, we saw that the Arab nation rose in the past and played a role which no one can ignore. However, because this role is far away—the distance between the past and the present in terms of time and symbols—some even sometimes say that this role was not as extensive as described in books, that it took place under circumstances which prevented its recurrence, and that the great development of other known nations is due to the fact that this age suits the characteristics of these nations and does not suit those of the Arab nation. It is even that the enemies of the nation tried to instill despair in the nation's sons by saying that the sword and the spear are different from the missile and the cannon. From a technical viewpoint, we know that this is one thing and that is another. However, we also know that the sword and the spear which the Arabs used were the most sophisticated weapons during that time. We know that the Arab victory was not because they used the sword and the spear in the best possible technical manner, but because they used the sword and the spear to defend principles which they upheld even before they carried the sword and the spear. This was one of the important situations which always reminds us as we cannot forget. It reminds us that Iraq is part of the Arab nation, and that Iraq is for the nation just like the nation is for Iraq.

The construction we undertake should not depend on purely local elements. When this happens, then it will be similar to any other case, and even if it happens to be better than other cases, this will be only in the technical aspect, and not an exceptional mark of distinction.

You cannot [words indistinct] the Arab nation of other nations [words indistinct] measurement and technical [words indistinct] but it must adopt an approach [passage indistinct]. That is why we said that all of us, the rich and the poor, should side with the poor, not because we hate the wealthy, but because we love them just as we love the needy, except when they reject this effective relationship so they can be in a situation that opposes the needy.

We want to love all our people and our entire nation. We want everyone to assume his duty and rules. The role dictated by the message cannot be assumed by part of the nation, but by the entire nation. Yes, it is primarily motivated by part of the nation which assumes its importance in accordance with responsibilities and in harmony with the society's reality. But for the entire nation to act and move from relative progress to durable progress, such progress [passage indistinct]. There must be relative progress and unbounded awakening. All this must be accompanied by exceptional sacrifices and patience.

If you are satisfied with your people in Iraq, in the sense of relative, not absolute, satisfaction, then your people will definitely be very grateful. We are still in the beginning. That is, the Arabs are satisfied with the Iraqis because they have deservedly inherited the principles of Baghdad, which are not Iraqi principles, but Arab and Islamic principles.

When you are satisfied with the people of Baghdad, this means they are proceeding in a correct way on the path of the message that Baghdad must undertake. Whenever says Baghdad is my capital should bear in mind that Baghdad was established by al-Mansur and the Arabs when they were entrusted with a great message to all humanity, and not only to the Arab nation.

There are some Arabs whom we used to love, in the same way we love the needy. We no longer love them, but we do not hate them. We do not know how to hate. We know how to love, but we do not know how to hate. We wanted to rid them of the sinful thoughts within their hearts because they possessed wealth to the degree of losing their humanity. They possessed wealth until the devil took possession of them.

We wanted to restore their humanity, and maintain a reasonable degree of ownership. We are well aware that it should be impermissible for man to be the head of state and a merchant at the same time. What would such a man aspire to achieve from commerce? Let other people engage in commerce. When people do not have supper for their children, the leader should be one of these people. But now, we are now in a situation where the Arab nation, God be praised, could manage to enable each and everyone of us to provide supper for his children if it were to put its house in order. Hence, we wanted to save themselves from the abyss. But they fell in that abyss. Iraq was not a poor country when it raised the slogan: We support the poor. The nation's wealth must belong to the entire nation so that we may rid the nation of this apparent disparity between the tangible reality on the one hand and the historical reality, which states that it is one nation. There are some people who are killing their humanity with ownership, whereas there are others who own nothing even though they are citizens in this nation. This slogan aimed to save immensely wealthy owners, as well as the hungry and poor, who are starved to death. In our nation, we have seen this glaring disparity between the truth embedded in the fact that we are a single nation and the reality manifested in the fact that we have among ourselves people whose immense wealth and ownership rendered them people without humaneness, as well as those who own nothing and

whose humanity has been threatened with loss, not to mention those who starved to death.

We love the two situations when the first category of people rid themselves of the negative aspects in their lives. Similarly, we love the situation of [word indistinct] because he is poor, and the poor are the children of God. Almighty God does not explain. The divine messages God revealed to his prophets and messengers do not betray in any of their meanings or teachings any misdirecting of explanations. Our faith lies in a sort of receiving the message. It is not merely an inheritance of rites or rituals from the past legacy. It has connotations regarding the renewal of mankind, the renewal of perceptions, the renewal of life, and consequently the renewal of practices. That is, practices must aim to play a role and achieve objectives. Only then will your nation become a unified one, even though it has different national banners. This is because it would have a lofty banner in the midst of the arena. This would be the joint banner of the single nation.

As is the situation in Iraq, there are the Governorates of Karbala', al-Ta'mim, Irbil, Salah-al-Din, Ninawa, al-Basrah, Maysan, environs, and al-Anbar. But even when these governorates have banners, they have a national banner, the banner of Iraq.

More than this, even tribes in Iraq have banners. But all these banners are under that of Iraq. Pan-Arabism does not suppress one's national affiliation. It elevates it to the level of a role and concept that are more advanced than that of a local matter. The blockade against your country, against Baghdad completes a chapter which God Almighty seems to have decided on your message would be understood, the message of the Arabs, Iraq, and the Iraqis uphold this message with faith and honor.

A divided nation cannot uphold its message and its banner at the same time. This is because it is divided into 22 states. But, one part of this nation can become a model for the other parts. Then, if this part reaches this level in pan-Arab and humanitarian terms, it could convey the message of the nation. I believe that your nation's message has become clearer. People now respect your nation more. Do not judge respect on the basis of the respect of the rulers. The respect of rulers for one another is not a yardstick. The yardstick is their respect for the other ruler's nation and people. What I mean is that the United States' respect for you has increased and will further increase. The opinion the French have of you now is better than before. The Japanese will understand you and your ability to carry out the one nation's message which benefits mankind and from which this nation benefits through interaction. He will come to understand your nation, your message, your role, and what you can do better than before. At one of the stages, the relative progress in Iraq was attributed we all recognize. But some rose to say that Iraq is not the only oil country in the Arab homeland, and that there are other oil countries which have not achieved the level of progress in life that Iraq has achieved. Perhaps, the question of oil would sometimes confuse the issue about progress, potential, and the discussion of what potential we used in Tunisia, Morocco, or Jordan to become advanced. But, under the canopy of the blockade, I do not believe that anyone can compare his state of affairs with that of Iraq—in the technical sense of the word. This means that all the other Arab countries can import and export with the exception of Iraq which can neither import nor export.

Therefore, if Iraq succeeds in expressing real ability under the canopy of the blockade this means it has passed the last field test and shown that the nation is an active nation. When someone tells us we have no potential, we will then tell him: Search for potential within yourself.

When he says I cannot face enemies, we tell him: Look at Baghdad and see how many enemies it has faced. Baghdad is not different from your country. It has the same situation, the same people. When he says: Most of our people are illiterate, we tell him: Look at Iraq and you will find that many students there are illiterate. Despite this, they have managed to absorb [word indistinct] quickly. Therefore, you should look for the cause that made these people this way, even though they are not different from the Palestinians, Syrians, Mauritanians, or Saudis. So why is it that these people develop, are qualified and patient, endure many hardships, persevere and fight for their rights, while you cannot do the same.

The nations will start to rise. Allow me, my brothers, to say that the nation is currently rising and resurgence does not happen through the construction of a river as the one you have seen. The river you have seen is only a sign of the level of determination of your people in Iraq and their level of developing capabilities, absorbing the current circumstances, and showing their ability to be creative. The essence is the individual. I see resurgence in the nation starting with the individual. A big question has arisen: How can we better our situations? By loving our people more and more, and by loving our nation, in the sense of sublime spiritual love, after understanding and interacting with its history; by having confidence in ourselves and moving toward the future.

One of the coincidences of history—we see things this way and this is in response to God's will—that their sacrifices and this creativity and the level of sacrifices witnessed in the Mother of Battles, happened in a rich, not a poor, country, and to a small people, and not the largest population in the nation, and to a people who have all races, religions, and nationalities. New standards were set for patience and endurance and sacrifices in light of the situation of those concerned with it, who are leaders of a state, and not leaders of opposition. Struggle was waged to defend the rule of a message, and not a traditional liberation of a land controlled [word indistinct].

Had dragons come from a poor state, people would have said that this state wants more money, and had the dragons been armed by the opposition, they would have been told: These

ern degree of an opposition and we do not know how you will act when you are actually in power.

But when the situation is like the one you know, an Arab would certainly react to wisdom, and when he reacts to wisdom, he will find himself capable of providing a correct answer and proceeding along the road to salvation, the salvation of both rulers and citizens.

It is only natural that when we say that the Arabs will find their way to salvation, we do not imagine that this can take place without struggle, without suffering, patience, and a readiness to offer sacrifices. We all have to offer sacrifices, including the one who addresses you if there is a sincere intention to seek the road to salvation in a collective manner. But when there is no intention to seek the road to salvation in a collective manner, then we have no other course than to pursue the search ourselves and offer the possible model. This model could be acceptable or criticized. But if we submit a model that is criticized, we should amend it. If the Arabs liken this model, then we would have acted in a democratic manner.

If all those who speak about democracy do not mobilize the people, then this means that their democracy is not complete. In Iraq, there is a popular resurgence as you have seen. In this country, which is your country, there is nothing impossible except that which God Almighty decrees. The people cannot reach this level of patience, struggle, forbearance, and construction if the relationships existing among them are not democratic. Why do not assess the facts. In terms of facts, your country has surpassed all the other Arab regions and is progressing without any interruption in the field of democracy.

In 1970, after the party carried out the revolution alone, it established democratic relations with other parties and forces which did not participate in the revolution. In 1972, before and after the nationalization of the oil industry, the party continued to establish these relations even though the other parties, when asked about the issue of oil, said that Iraq should participate with a minimum of 52 percent. But the revolutionaries refused this and insisted on the nationalization of the entire oil industry. Thus, the decision to nationalize the oil industry was made.

We said: Let everyone join us within the framework of this new message, a message to the Iraqis, and through them to the entire nation.

The doors were opened. In Iraq, a parliament was established, a parliament that was freely and democratically elected for the first time in Iraq's history. Before 1958, there were attempts, but you all know how these attempts were carried out.

Iraq is the only country that refuses to allow representatives of the revolution to run in elections on a single ticket. This does not take place elsewhere, even under democratic elections, be it in a union or a federation. Rather, the representatives of the revolution are required to compete among themselves. In other words, it is impermissible to accept just one candidate. At least two candidates must be nominated. Iraq is perhaps among the rare countries which provides the candidate with all the expenses needed for his candidacy. How can democracy be achieved? We have an elected National Assembly. The only thing that we do not have is an elected head of state. In view of our own conditions, we believe that the participation of others cannot be accomplished under harsh circumstances. We will achieve this once we emerge victorious from such circumstances. Then, we will expand the base of participation, so that the profound meaning of participation can be understood. Having emerged victorious from the conflict with the rulers of Iran, and after the battle was decided, we said: Now we must expand the base of participation and make room for the highest flexibility so that other parties can participate. God be praised for that. However, in view of the circumstances of the conflict, and before the beginning of the battle and before Baghdad came under air bombardment, we suspended the call for such a plan. We had drawn up an integrated plan that accounted for everything, including the election of the president of the Republic, ministers. The plan was presented to the people for discussion on a large scale. However, when we came under threat, we had to pause, so that we could concentrate on confronting the aggression and so that our call for broad participation would not be understood as an invitation for enhanced assistance to confront a development beyond our capabilities. We do not seek technical assistance, but rather we desire historic assistance. Naturally, the first assistance we seek is from God Almighty. When we request assistance from a certain political party, we seek historic assistance, which means interaction, not the mere addition of technical capabilities to our existing capabilities.

An artificial addition of capabilities does not create a situation whereby our nation's message can be enhanced. What counts with a situation is interaction. However, when the battle ended and everything was made clear, in terms that this regime—the regime of the message—would continue, we issued a law expanding participation and providing a chance for whoever wants to form new parties, in addition to the existing parties that we already mentioned.

Allow me to say that a true democracy—democracy that achieves justice, creates interaction, and sees the poor with the eye of the faithful—primarily exists in Iraq, in Baghdad. We respect all other experiences. However, in accordance with our understanding of the concept of the message, a true democracy exists here. If we hear that a widow is hungry, we cannot sleep at night. If the greedy person is enjoying and exploiting the majority of the people, we cannot rest until justice is restored. This is true democracy. Democracy is the concept of the message inspired from our nation's history and great heritage. It is applied in its true essence through deeds in life. This concept of democracy can make the people much more capable of performing the role of the message.

Have we achieved all that we should in this and other fields? The answer is no. However, we are on our way to achieving this. What we wish for our nation and our people is always bigger than what we carry out.

Greetings to the Arabs, greetings to the Arabs. Our greetings first of all go to the Palestinians. God willing, this country will not forget Palestine. Let the world at large hear this. We say this while this country is besieged. To not forget Palestine is within the essence of the ethics of the people who speak about a message. If they let this become governed by political circumstances, then this means that they are merely rulers and not the bearers of a message. We are only bearers of a message. What honors us is what you say to us, although this imposes on us a responsibility, the dimensions of which we are aware.

When you praise your country, Iraq, you let it assume an additional moral and principled responsibility.

Long live Palestine, free and Arab. [applause] [passage omitted]

'Restore Hope' Called 'Odious Terrorist Operation'

AB1012133092 Paris AFP in French 1151 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (AFP)—The Iraqi daily, AL-SAOURA, today described the landing of Americans in Somalia in connection with the UN mandated Operation "Restore Hope" as an "odious terrorist operation perpetrated in the darkness of night."

American brutal guns in the hungry accompanied only by American soldiers," the organ of the ruling Ba'th party writes. It adds: "No one wonders why brutal war is lashing (in Somalia), contrary to the arms and money that came from abroad."

"Somalia will be a victory for (outgoing) American President George Bush," AL-SAOURA said, while "Iraq will remain his bitter defeat."

The Iraqi press has already described as "Somalian occupation" the UN Security Council Resolution 794 authorizing a multinational military intervention for humanitarian purposes under American command in this hungry stricken and war-torn African country.

IRNA Reports Explosions, Clashes in Iraq

LD1012235592 Tehran IRNA in English 1634 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Khorramshahr (Khuzestan), Dec. 10, IRNA—Loud explosions from inside Iraq were heard at the Shalamcheh border region near here yesterday.

The explosions were reportedly the result of fighting between the Iraqi people and the Iraqi Army which is using heavy weapons against the people of al-Basrah.

Over the past week the clashes in al-Amarah, al-Basrah and al-Nasiriyah between the Iraqi Army and popular forces, resulted in the martyrdom and injury of several people, an informed Iraqi opposition source said.

Rebels Flagship Government Artillery Emplacements

NC1012170892 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Our sources in the south have pinpointed the locations of the long-caliber artillery emplacements that belong to the dictator Saddam's forces that are shelling the 'Ahwah [al-Badayr], al-Tar, 'Thaibah, (Al Imam'H), (Jisr Jarmat Bani-Hasan), and (al-Bashikhyr) areas in al-Nasiriyah [Dhi Qar] Governorate.

Our sources added that the regime's artillery locations are currently deployed in two areas: the first near the headquarters of the 113th Brigade on the road between al-Fahood and al-Nasiriyah, 5 km from al-Fahood, and the second near the road junction linking al-Fahood, al-Nasiriyah, and al-Tar.

The media center of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq had earlier published a news report about the regime artillery's brutal bombardment of the areas named above in al-Nasiriyah Governorate since 30 November. The popular forces inflicted severe losses in lives and equipment on the regime's forces.

Regime Urged To Monitor Iran's 'Armament Program'

JN0512115092 Baghdad INA in English 1315 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 5, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily called on the Arab countries and all states of the region to prepare an accurate observation system to supervise Iran's armament program which posed a serious threat to the stability of the region.

In an analysis published today, the daily found it necessary to draw the attention to the Iranian feverish efforts to build a huge conventional and non-conventional arsenal, referring to the arms deals it had switches to buy missiles and nuclear weapons.

The daily made it clear that the need for such a system stemmed from the ends which this program sought to realize, taking into account Iran's strategy in the region and the ambitions and way of thinking and dealing of its rulers.

It brought to mind the bases on which the Iranian foreign policy stands, especially with the neighbouring states, since Khomeyni clique had seized power in 1979, stressing that Islamic Iran had adopted publicity and officially since its establishment the principle of exporting the Islamic revolution.

The paper went on saying that in the light of this policy, Tehran had interfered in the internal affairs of other

[illegible] states, including Arab countries, confirming that this was part of Iran's general policy which was based on regional expansionism.

It pointed out that the Iranian regime intended to play the role of a policeman in the Middle East and Arab Gulf, as well as in the Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union.

It shed light on the Iranian position on the need to continue the occupational dreams, in the forefront of which the 8-year aggression against Iraq and the occupation of the three Arab islands in the Arab Gulf which was accompanied by political statements reflecting Iran's greed in Bahrain, Kuwait and parts of Iraq.

The paper criticized the stands of the U.S. Administration and its Western allies towards the recent Iranian moves, a stance that was considered to deserve warning and condemnation statements.

It said the United States and the West imagined that provision of a strong Iran would be an obstacle in the way of any Arab liberation movement in this sensitive Arab region.

Soldier Defected to Israel "Out of Fear"

JN1112003492 Baghdad BAGHDAD in Arabic 0 Dec 92 p 2

[From "According to Foreign News Agencies" section]

[Text] Jerusalem, 7 December—It was learned today, Monday, from an "Israeli" military source that an Iraqi Army fugitive defected to "Israel" three weeks ago after illegally crossing the "Israeli"-Jordanian border near [illegible] in southern "Israel."

An "Israeli" Army patrol arrested the soldier, who was in military uniform, as he crossed the border. He was handed over to police and questioned.

The same source said the soldier refused to serve in the Iraqi Army and said he preferred to defect to "Israel" rather than stay in Jordan out of fear that he may be handed over to Iraqi authorities.

and Canada continues to demand that Israel raise its own proposal on the issue of family reunification.

Swiss Decision on Contacts With PLO Protested

TA1012000692 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Dec 92 p 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] Israel has filed a protest with the Swiss Government over the latter's decision to establish official contacts with the PLO. Jerusalem believes that one of the reasons for the Swiss move was Israel's intention to abolish the ban on meetings with PLO members.

Israeli officials in Jerusalem and Bern told Swiss representatives that the Swiss decision does not contribute to the promotion of the peace process and that the Knesset decision should not be interpreted as a legitimization of the PLO.

According to the Swiss Government decision, the PLO representatives at the UN institutions in Geneva will now be considered an official diplomatic encounter. This move for the first time establishes official contacts between Switzerland and the PLO.

The Swiss Government spokesman made it clear that the decision is not a recognition of "Palestine" as a state.

Shamir-King Hussayn 1991 Meeting Confirmed

TA0812120892 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 6 Dec 92 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Yoni Ben-Menashe, the former director general of the Prime Minister's Office, confirmed last Friday that toward the end of the Gulf War then-Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir met with Jordan's King Hussayn.

Ben-Menashe made this observation at a symposium held at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, as journalist Moshe Zaq was reviewing the contacts between Israel and Jordan. From his seat in the hall, Ben-Menashe confirmed the meeting between Shamir and Hussayn, their third.

Western diplomatic sources said 'AL HAMISHMAR that the meeting took place in the 'Aqaba at the residence of King Hussayn, who asked the United States to arrange it. Shamir complied, as a token of appreciation for the fact that Hussayn prevented the Iraqi Army from entering Jordanian territory, a move which would have prompted a war between Iraq and Israel. Shamir promised Hussayn to drop his long-standing support for the formula "Jordan is Palestine" and to back the Hashemite regime in Jordan.

At the time, Shamir's aide Yoni Ahimer'u denied the report.

EC Transfers Money to Palestinian Credit Institutions

TA0812151492 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Dec 92 p 1

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Text] The EC will transfer 13 million ECU [European currency unit] worth some $20 million to three Palestinian credit institutions on Thursday [10 December]. Twenty-nine million ECU will be transferred that day to the Palestinian Housing Council. That will be the first annual transfer of funds from the EC to official Palestinian institutions not done via the military government.

Last Sunday, an agreement was signed in Orient House, Feisal al-Husayni's center of activity, to coordinate actions and guidelines between the three credit institutions: the Group for Economic Development; the Arab Company for Development and Credit, which deals mainly with agricultural development; and the Corporation for Technological Development. The credit institutions will receive 6 million ECU, 5 million ECU, and 4 million ECU respectively.

Al-Husayni and Thomas Doyle, the EC representative in the institution, participated in the signing ceremony. The funds were given to the Palestinians as grants and will be distributed to Palestinian entrepreneurs as loans to be used for profit-making economic projects.

The Housing Council, which was inaugurated in July, is still studying various housing projects on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Some of the money is meant for building and some for housing loans.

The EC grants are part of the 60 million ECU, worth some $600 million, the EC decided to grant in the wake of the Gulf war. Israel was allocated over $200 million in loans within the framework of that EC policy.

King Hussyn Leaves for Medical Checkup in U.S.

JN0312122092 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] His Majesty King Hussyn left Amman at noon today for a scheduled medical checkup in the United States.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan took the concerned oath before His Majesty on request during the king's absence abroad.

His Majesty the king was seen off at the airport by Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, speakers of both Houses of Parliament, a number of royal family members, and senior army and civilian officials.

His Majesty was accompanied by Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, chief of the Royal Court.

Iraqi Intelligence Said Involved in Scientist's Murder

PM1112104892 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Dec 92 pp1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Fort Played by Iraqi Intelligence in Assassination of al-Janabi"]

[Excerpt] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—While the Jordanian authorities continue their intensive measures and investigations of the assassination of the Iraqi nuclear scientist in complete secrecy, various sources have indicated that the Baghdad regime is not unconcerned with the incident and might have mobilized its various organs to track down and kill nuclear scientist Mu'tasyam Hasan al-Janabi (35) in broad daylight in Jabal al-Hussayn in Amman the day before yesterday.

Informed sources in Amman have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that al-Janabi, who worked in the field of nuclear energy in Iraq, had been trying for six months to leave Iraq on the pretext of compassionate and spending a holiday in Jordan with his wife and two children.

The sources added that after high-level conferences, the Iraqi Intelligence Service allowed al-Janabi to leave Iraq after obtaining written pledges from his father and brother that he would return to the country at the end of his vacation, which expired on 25 November.

According to the same sources, the Iraqi Intelligence Service recently sent people who shadowed al-Janabi all the time, expecting that since he set foot in Jordan he began preparing to take refuge in an Arab state. He reportedly found all the embassies he approached in Amman closed to him except the Libyan embassy.

The sources said that al-Janabi, who got the agreement of the Libyan embassy in Amman to receive him in Tripoli after his vacation, had to get a permit to travel overland through Tunisia because of the air embargo on Libya.

Tunisian embassies, which fear infiltration of fundamentalists into Tunisia, are usually very strict when granting such visas. It seems that the Tunisian ambassador in Amman, to whom al-Janabi applied for a visa, had to refer back to his country for consultation. It seems that the answer came too late for the pursuit Iraqi nuclear scientist. [passage omitted]

The sources added that when al-Janabi's vacation expired and he did not return to Iraq, Iraqi Military Intelligence arrested his father and brother on the basis of the guarantees they gave earlier. Unconfirmed reports say that the two may have been summarily executed as one of the Iraqi princes. [passage omitted]

According to some sources, the two persons arrested at Amman airport immediately after the assassination have been released for lack of evidence linking them to the incident. [passage omitted]

Libyan Envoy Arrives With al-Qadhdhafi Message

JN0312201592 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Jum'ah al-Mahdi al-Fezzani, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison and Arab Affairs [title as heard], arrived in Amman this evening to relay a message from leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to His Majesty King Hussyn.

Al-Fezzani was welcomed at the airport by Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir and the Libyan ambassador in Amman.

The Libyan envoy made a statement to our correspondent for political affairs on the nature of his Jordan visit, saying:

[Begin al-Fezzani recording] Yes, I am carrying a message from brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, to His Majesty King Hussyn as a practical response to the ardent appeal his majesty the king has made. This appeal epitomizes a strong sense of responsibility toward the deteriorating Arab state of affairs, and toward the disarray and division plaguing the Arab nation. I am here referring to the appeal the king made, urging Arabs to sideway their marginal differences with the aim of complementing all that is essential; namely, the unity of the nation, the achievement of solidarity among the regimes making up the Arab world, and ensuring the integration of these regimes' resources so that we may eliminate all manifestations of subservience and backwardness. In my message, I am relaying full support for this endeavor. Indeed, we are placing the trust of realizing this dear wish of achieving Arab unity in the hands of His Majesty King Hussyn. We are certain that he is capable of keeping this trust and helping it materialize on the ground. This is because the historical legacy and the historical experience which crystallized Hussyn's character and gave him his pan-Arab wisdom and perspective render him capable of realizing this wish. [end recording]

Gives Message to King

JN0512172992 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] His Majesty King Hussayn received Jum'ah Faraani, secretary of Libya's General People's Committee for Unity, foreign minister, and official in charge of Arab affairs, [title as heard] at the Royal Hashemite Court today. Faraani conveyed a letter to his majesty from Libyan President His Excellency Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The letter praises His Majesty King Hussayn's role and what the Jordanian people, under his leadership, have offered to the pan-Arab cause. The letter also expresses appreciation of, and pride in his majesty's pan-Arab initiatives and praises his courage in confronting the challenges facing the Arab nation.

In his letter, his excellency the Libyan president stressed the need for a pan-Arab coordination in order to achieve the Arab nation's aspirations and face the challenges against the march of its future generations.

His excellency the Libyan president said his country responds favorably to His Majesty King Hussayn's call to establish a new Arab order, a united Arab states, or a single Arab state. He also notes His Majesty King Hussayn's experience, wisdom, historical credit, and pan-Arab struggle all constitute factors for rendering success to this pan-Arab initiative, which he described as the door out of the nation's crises and the major challenges facing it.

His Majesty King Hussayn voiced appreciation for His Excellency President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. He asked Faraani to convey his amicable greetings to him, stressing that one should be assured that what his majesty has expressed, and expresses is based on an understanding of the questions going through the mind of the Arab individual and the dignity, rights, and freedoms that befit him.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Khalid al-Kurdi, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir; and the Libyan ambassador to Jordan.

Hails King's Initiative, Departs

JN0612143292 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Jum'ah al-Faraani, secretary general of Libya's General People's Committee for Unity and foreign minister in charge of Arab affairs, left Amman at noon today at the end of a visit to Jordan. During his visit, the Libyan official delivered a message to His Majesty King Hussayn from His Excellency Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, president of Libya, which hailed his majesty's role and what the Jordanian people, under his leadership, have offered to the pan-Arab cause.

In a statement upon his departure, al-Faraani told our correspondent Jawad al-'Umari:

[Begin recording] I was honored by meeting with His Majesty King Hussayn. I delivered to him a message from brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great 1 September revolution. The message stresses support for Jordan's courageous pan-Arab initiative for unity of the homeland, aimed at ending the dilemma of the Arab nation and enabling it to possess the requisites for fortifying the national basis of Arab society, by employing economic and human capabilities to realize progress. We have blessed this initiative and are confident that his majesty is capable of realizing it.

I stressed to his majesty that we are prepared to bolster Libyan-Jordanian relations in all fields. I agreed with my colleagues and brothers, the foreign minister and minister of industry, that we activate the technical committees established by the Libyan-Jordanian Joint Committee. I told him that Libya has endorsed all the agreements that have been concluded. We have laid down a basis for serious follow-up for all what we decide, and what the Libyan- Jordanian Joint Committee decided during its first meeting, and to prepare for its second meeting in Tripoli. God willing. [end recording]

King Visits Armed Forces General Command 9 Dec

JN0912195792 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] His Majesty King Hussayn, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, this afternoon visited the General Command where he was received by Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu-Taleb, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the chairman of the Staff of the Royal Ground Forces, and the directors of the General Intelligence, the Public Security, the Civil Defense, as well as aides to the chief of staff and the inspector general.

His majesty the supreme commander met for some time with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan. During the meeting, several issues of concern to the Armed Forces were discussed.

Future Party, Islamic Action Front Legalized

JN0812180392 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Interior Minister Jawdat al-Sukkul issued a decision today licensing the Future Party [Hizb al-Mustaqbal] and the Islamic Action Front [Jabhat-al-'Amal al-Islami].

The minister yesterday approved the licensing of the Pledge Party [Hizb al-'Ahd] and the Popular Unity Party-the Unionists [Hizb al-Wahdah al-Sha'biyah-al-Wahdawiyun].

So far, five political parties have been licensed.

Al-Hariri Cites Saudi Support at Cabinet Meeting

NC0912221992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2021 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Excerpt] In its meeting today, the Council of Ministers discussed the items on its agenda and approved most of them. Information Minister Michel Samahah said at the end of the meeting that Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri briefed the Council on the outcome of his visit to Saudi Arabia. He said al-Hariri cited the Saudi king as stressing his personal and the Kingdom's patronage of contacts being held to implement Security Council Resolution 425.

The Saudi monarch was also said to be eager to see Lebanon's march toward peace and reconstruction accompanied by supporting demands from creditor international institutions for Lebanon's economic development plan and activating assistance and the aid fund. Al-Hariri also conveyed the Saudi monarch's eagerness to encourage Saudi businessmen to invest in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Minister: Media Should Identify Israel as Enemy

NC1012134492 Sharqiyah Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Information Minister Michel Samahah has warned television and radio stations not to broadcast immoral serials or programs. Speaking at a meeting with media officials in the Information Ministry, he announced: I do not wish to keep this secret from you. Any television station that still broadcasts such shows will be forced to close. Public morality cannot be violated.

Minister Samahah added: This issue has no connection with freedom of expression. We will begin to enforce the law in these institutions from today. There will be a general framework within which everyone will operate to stop such shows before the law organizing the media is passed.

Samahah, speaking in the presence of press chief Muhammad al-Ba'lbaki, urged the media to exercise self-discipline to stay in harmony with our heritage and our affiliations with our homeland and region. He said: This is not a political issue but a question of rehabilitating the individual who has an intimate relationship with his homeland and Arab milieu.

He added: Many complaints are being received about television stations—like violent shows and diabolical messages that are promoted by programs through music and the deliberation of the devil.

On politics, the information minister said: I ask nothing more than that you identify the enemy and declare that the border strip is an occupied strip, that Israel is the enemy, and that the resistance is honorable and patriotic.

Minister Samahah called on media representatives to attend another meeting next Monday [14 December] to draw up an operational document that will form the basis of a charter of honor.

President, Ba'th Receive Syrian Ba'th Official

JN1112064092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Beirut—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi last night received comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the [Syrian] Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Earlier in the day, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri received comrade al-Ahmar. 'Abdallah al-Amin, regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon and Lebanese minister of labor and social affairs, also attended the meeting.

Recent developments in the region were discussed during both meetings.

Prisoners Arrive From Syria; 130 Still Detained

NC0912170192 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 4 Dec 92 p 5

[Text] Tripoli—Some 45 members of the "Islamic Unification Movement" [IUM], who had been detained in Syria and covered by the pardon granted by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on Syria's Corrective Movement anniversary, arrived in Tripoli, al-Qalamun, al-Dinniyah, and 'Akkar yesterday. They are among 550 prisoners covered by the pardon decision.

It should be noted that a similar number of members detainees in Syrian prisons were released last year on the same occasion.

An IUM official said that 130 IUM members are still being detained in Syria.

Prime Minister Leaves on 'Private Visit' to France

NC1012212992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left Beirut this afternoon for Paris on a three-day private visit. Well-informed sources do not rule out that al-Hariri may hold talks with French officials during the visit.

Amnesty International Held Concerned Over Arrests

NC0912153992 Sharqiyah Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Amnesty International has expressed its concern over the arrests made by Lebanese authorities. It has sent an urgent appeal to President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Interior Minister Muhammad Mikhay, and Justice Minister Nahij 'Abbawah to put an end to them.

In a statement issued in London, the organization has noted that between 10 and 30 of General Aoun's supporters are still under detention and could be prisoners of conscience. It is feared that they were tortured or mistreated. The Amnesty International statement added that it is believed that these persons were arrested following celebrations marking Lebanon's Independence Day and noted that it received a list of 23 persons believed to have been detained at the time. However, six of them were released after a brief period.

Information Minister Receives UN Team 10 Dec

JN1012214492 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in 1830 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman received a UN fact-finding team today. The information minister spoke about the nature of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the UN role in issuing resolutions which helped pave the way for the current Middle East peace process.

The minister also talked about the current Washington peace talks and the intransigent Israeli stand which rejects withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. He added that peace cannot be achieved without Israeli withdrawal from the entire Syrian territories and the rest of the occupied Arab territories. He said: When we stress a comprehensive peace, all Arabs feel that they are concerned with the nature of the conflict and that they are part of it.

The information minister emphasized Syria's constant and principled stand toward a comprehensive peace and its adherence to the resolutions of international legitimacy, at the top of which are UN Resolutions 242 and 338, on which the U.S. peace initiative and the Madrid conference and following rounds are based.

He said: An expeditious move to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East will save the region from dangers that could threaten its security and could waste an opportunity that cannot be provided again under social, ideological, and political developments.

The information minister talked about the important role that the media can play to clarify ideas and stands that would lead to peace and would hold any party that obstructs progress in the peace talks responsible. He focused on the role played by the media under the influence of the Zionist lobby aimed at misleading world public opinion and serving Israel by disseminating its rulers' ideas that lack credibility.

Dr. Salman added: We, in Syria, did not sense a change in the Israeli political or public stand and the Israeli officials continue to announce their adherence to the occupation of the land. This, he said, makes Syrian media adhere more to its language and method. A change in method and language depends on the stand of Israeli leaders toward peace.

At the end of the meeting, the information minister answered questions posed by members of the UN fact-finding team.

Arab League Urged To Take Actions on Somalia

JN1012163892 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 5 Dec 92 p 8

["Opinion" column by 'Izz-al-Din Darwish: "Where is Arab Action?"]

[Text] The UN Security Council has authorized the United States to lead a military operation in Somalia, "using all necessary means to create a secure environment for humanitarian relief aid operations as soon as possible."

Somalia, which is suffering from a state of complete lawlessness, a total absence of government authority, and a ferocious wave of starvation that has killed one whole generation of its nationals and threatens to kill millions of others by starvation, requires speedy and effective relief operations to and ensure international relief supplies reach the starving people.

Viewing the situation in Somalia from an Arab angle and perspective, we must affirm that the Somali people are fraternal people who are being exposed to a dangerous and lethal famine that kills thousands of innocent people everyday. The crisis plaguing Somalia is extremely dangerous due to the absence of government authority there. However, it goes without saying that any international aid to this afflicted country must remain within the humanitarian context. The scheduled military operation must not turn into a political operation. And here lies the importance of the Arab position and that of the Arab League, which has thus far failed to crystallize a firm and effective position toward the situation in Somalia.

Now that the Security Council has passed a resolution sanctioning a military operation in Somalia, it is necessary for the Arab League to shoulder its responsibilities in the following direction:

—Applying pressure to keep the military operation authorized by the Security Council within its scheduled context of distributing relief aid to the Somali people who need that aid. This operation must have timetables and programs to ensure that it does not go beyond the set objectives.

—Working to effect a national reconciliation among Somali political factions in a bid to achieve a sweeping national reconciliation in that afflicted country.

—Safeguarding Somalia's unity, sovereignty, and independence, and deeming this issue inviolable.

And here lies the importance of the UN role in this regard, as well as the importance of continuous coordination between the United Nations and the Arab League. Such coordination must aim to ensure that the Somalia operation is implemented within the framework of this Arab understanding of the situation in Somalia.

As for the passage of the Security Council resolution on Somalia, this does not mean that the Arab League's role has been eliminated. Indeed, the passage of this resolution means that the league's role must be activated and invigorated so that the league may shoulder its responsibilities toward Somalia, an Arab League member.

The Arab League has enormous responsibilities toward Somalia because the Somali people are fraternal people and also because honoring commitments to this afflicted country promotes the Arabs' national and pan-Arab interests, not to mention the fact that this is one of the league's basic duties. Indeed, the UN Security Council

resolution on Somalia could serve as a motive for pushing the Arab League to remedy the situation in Somalia and keep it away from the dangers posed by political traps. This is achievable when coordination with the United Nations is enhanced, and also when there is direct involvement with the disputing Somali factions with a view to bringing them to the negotiating table within the context of a comprehensive national dialogue.

Press Predicts Failure of Peace Talks

JN0912105892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 9 Dec 92

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on the ongoing Middle East peace talks in Washington, saying: At a time when Israeli delegations to the peace talks are thwarting the Washington conferees' efforts to achieve positive results, as confirmed by the U.S. ambassador to Israel after he had met with the Israeli delegations prior to their departure for Washington, the Israeli foreign minister made statements on possible progress during the eighth round of talks to downplay the impact of the Israeli stand, which is attempting to preclude progress until after Clinton takes over his executive powers.

AL-BA'TH adds: Israel's attempts to waste time have become well known to Arab delegations, the world public, and the cosponsors of the peace conference. Since the convocation of the Madrid conference and up to now, the Israeli side has maneuvered in order to waste time. It has been aided in this by the fall of the Shamir government, Rabin's election win, Bush's failure in his reelection bid, and Clinton's victory in the U.S. presidential elections. However, a change in power, either in Israel or the United States, should not influence the peace process.

AL-BA'TH cites the statements made by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to the U.S. magazine TIME regarding the U.S. Administration's stand, in which he said: When any U.S. president gives consideration to the Middle East conflict, he will find that the attainment of comprehensive peace promotes the interests of all parties.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH says: We are convinced that the eighth round of peace talks will fail. Also, talk of resuming the talks under the Clinton administration is premature. However, it remains to be said that the game of wasting time will not continue forever.

For its part, the newspaper TISHRIN comments on the U.S. role in the ongoing Washington peace talks, saying: President George Bush has declared his decision to meet with the chief delegates to the peace talks. The Arabs appreciate Bush's peace initiative and his pledge to ensure the implementation of international law. However, the U.S. role has been ineffective. This enabled the Shamir government to publicly defy the wishes of the international community and of the United States. For example, when the Americans declared their condemnation of the Israeli settlement policy, the Shamir government failed to heed this U.S. stand. Indeed, it showed a determination to continue with its settlement endeavors, Judaize all occupied Arab territories, and establish Greater Israel. As for the Rabin government, it exploited President Bush's election circumstances to obtain the loan guarantees as well as weapons free of charge, without giving anything in return.

TISHRIN affirms that the failure of the peace talks is attributable to the ineffective roles of both the United States and the international community. Hence, if the United States is not to lose its credibility and international role, the Clinton administration must take a firm and serious stand. It is urged to intervene to uphold international law and the UN Charter.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says: Millions of people in the region aspire for the attainment of peace in the Middle East. As for the Washington talks, they have turned into a rostrum for speeches. Israel will maintain its maneuvers unless the stands of both the United States and the international community toward it are changed. Such a change should make it clear that international legitimacy and its resolutions reign supreme everywhere.

Afghanistan

Factional Fighting Winds Down in Capital

Tehran Radio Says Kabul 'Calm'

LD1012123192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Reports from Kabul indicate that clashes between forces of General Dostum and Nasir have stopped and people of Kabul are using the calm to bury the dead.

According to IRNA and CNU [Central News Agency] reports, over 60 bodies were pulled out of debris and buried.

Some shops are open and traffic for the purchase of food gives the city a facade of normality.

Recent events in Kabul have taken place at a juncture where only a short time remains until the end of the presidency of Mr. Burhanuddin Rabbani.

However, efforts by the Jihadi forces and resistance groups to establish the Constituent Council have not achieved definite results.

The Council is to formed between 13 and 15 December to elect the president of Afghanistan for the next 18 months.

Dostum Ready To Return Positions

LD1012173692 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] According to a London radio report, General Dostum has announced his readiness to give back the positions he occupied during clashes in Kabul yesterday. During clashes which took place yesterday between the forces of General Dostum and the Supervisory Council [Shura-ye Nezar] many defenseless people were killed and injured. According to a report by the correspondent of the Voice and Vision, following a lull in Kabul at least 60 corpses were dug out of the rubble and buried today following a lull in the fighting.

'Complete Security' Restored to Kabul

LD1012180192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Esteemed Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, in his recent meeting with esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, minister of defense of the Islamic State; esteemed Engineer Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, minister of internal affairs; and esteemed General Abdorrahim Wardak, the chief of staff, spoke about the situation in Kabul city, measures taken by the government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan on the convocation of the Reconciliation and Settlement Council, and security issues. The minister of defense of the Islamic State then gave assurances that the armed forces of the Islamic State are entirely in control of the situation, and complete security has been restored in Kabul city.

The esteemed president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan also received esteemed Lieutenant General Hemayun [word indistinct]. Esteemed Lieutenant-General (Fawzi) reported to the esteemed president of the Islamic State regarding the misunderstanding among the government units. The esteemed president of the Islamic State then expressed his opinion in this regard.

The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent reports that the security forces and the armed forces of the Islamic State are engaged as usual in maintaining security in Kabul city and the citizens of Kabul returned to their normal duties and businesses today. Our compatriots are aware that the Islamic State of Afghanistan and our Muslim and faithful people are on the threshold of convening the Reconciliation and Settlement Council in accordance with the resolution of the Islamic State. The Islamic State of Afghanistan is determined to convene this grand national session as soon as possible with the cooperation of our faithful compatriots and unreserved assistance of all jihadi formations, so that the delegates of the Afghan nation can render their vital and important decision in electing the leadership of the Islamic State in accordance with the Leadership Council's decision and thus accomplish their patriotic and historic role in discharging this major national and Islamic duty.

The Islamic State is confident that all of our faithful compatriots and Muslim jihadi leaders can play their historic and jihadi role by successfully convening the Reconciliation and Settlement Council. It will not allow any action to disrupt the convening of the Council, which is the wish of our faithful and Muslim nation.

Rabbani, Mas'ud Still in Control

BK1112101992 Islamabad THE NATION in English 11 Dec 92 p 3

[Text] Peshawar—The representatives of Prof Rabbani's Jami'at-e Islami in Peshawar denied the reports published in various newspapers, regarding the uncertain situation in Kabul.

The Jami'at representatives said that both Afghan President Prof. Rabbani and Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud along with their close associates and other Mojahedin leaders were present in Kabul and controlling their administration. They further said that Afghan President Prof. Rabbani with the help of other components of the government are making arrangements for convening a meeting of the Shura for deciding the future of that country.

Referring to various speculations being spread in Peshawar regarding differences between the militia forces of Rashid Dostum and Mojahedin of Shura-ye Nezar, the spokesman outrightly rejected the said

rumors claiming that a normal situation existed in Kabul. He added that Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and others succeeded in a cease-fire to the five-days long fighting in Kabul. There exists complete peace in Kabul the [words indistinct].

Meanwhile, sources of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's, Hezb-e Eslami in Peshawar on Thursday again gave a sanitized picture of Kabul. They claimed that militia forces were controlling the situation and arresting the Mojahedin of Shura-ye Nezar in each and every corner of Kabul city. The militia forces, they added enjoyed the support of Mojahedin of Hezb-e Wahdat. They also alleged that Afghan President Prof Borhanoddin Rabbani and Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud have left Kabul for unknown place.

On the other hand, the Peshawar-based AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY, run by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami in its reports on Thursday informed that the attempt of Jami'at-e Eslami Afghanistan to gain the military support of Hezb-e Eslami against Hezb-e Wahdat in the ongoing tussle for power remained inconclusive. It, quoting the Hezb-e Eslami newspaper, disclosed that Syed [name indistinct] General Secretary of Jami'at-e Eslami along with a number of senior members of his party called on Gulbuddin Hekmatyar at Charasyab, Kabul on Wednesday and demanded military support of Hezb-e Eslami for the Shura-ye Nezar of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud against Hezb-e Wahdat.

In response the Hezb-e Eslami [words indistinct] a unity of action of all the jehad forces but it would never support the present coalition setup whose major components are the remnants of Communist regime.

Defense Minister Meets Press

LD1012170292 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, the Islamic State of Afghanistan's defense minister, tonight briefed domestic and foreign correspondents on recent events in Kabul city. The Islamic State of Afghanistan's defence minister said that those who are worried about the will of the nation [words indistinct] intended to disrupt this will of the nation. Esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud then said:

[Begin Mas'ud recording] [Words indistinct] intended to disrupt the convocation of the Reconciliation and Settlement Council [Shura-ye Hal wa 'Aqd]. As such conspiracies were many times defeated before, fortunately this time this conspiracy was defeated and no one can prevent the convocation of the Reconciliation and Settlement Council. We are hoping that the Council can convene on schedule and the people can themselves decide in a calm atmosphere and elect their future leader and government. [end recording]

Foreign Media Accused of Bias

LD1012200992 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Statement by BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY "in connection with the recent unfortunate conflicts"—issued in Kabul on 10 December]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Kabul, the capital of our dear country, has once again witnessed sad incidents and unfortunate conflicts during the last few days. Once again the dark and mysterious hands tried, by disturbing the situation in Kabul, to harm the will of the Muslim and mojahed nation of Afghanistan and the Islamic State of Afghanistan to form the Reconciliation and Settlement Council and elect a new of head of state for the country.

Today everyone knows that the present leadership of the Islamic State of Afghanistan led by Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, has carried out all the necessary efforts during the last five months to establish order, security, and stability all over the country and to free the country from the present political and economic crisis and to protect the national unity of Afghanistan from various threats. [passage omitted]

At present, thanks to God and the sacrifices of the combatant Islamic armed forces and mojahedin, the renewed efforts to disturb the calm situation in Kabul have ended in failure and a cease-fire between the sides involved has been firmly enforced. The Islamic state is in full control of the situation in Kabul. The alert forces of the Islamic army are fully ready to crush any type of agitation. The Islamic state is the guarantor of the property and life of the people of Kabul city and assure them that it will not allow any forces to disturb the daily life of the people.

Unfortunately, at this moment when peace and tranquility have returned to the capital and life has become normal form in Kabul, a number of foreign mass media—contrary to the realities and the expectation of the Islamic state—resorted to broadcasting incorrect news and alleged that the headquarters of the Islamic State of Afghanistan was subjected to an air attack on 18 Qaws [9 December] and that a number of the state establishments, including the Defense Ministry and the radio-television building, were being besieged. All these rumors were completely false and are not true at all. On the contrary, 18 Qaws, unlike the two preceding days, was completely calm. The statement issued by the Kabul Peace Mission noted that the cease-fire was holding among the sides involved.

At these sensitive moments BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY, as the only national source of news, urges all representatives of the foreign news agencies in Kabul and foreign radios which broadcast news about Afghanistan to take into account the accepted norms of the sacred profession of journalism and to maintain

accuracy and realism when reporting on the current situation of our country, and also to act with responsibility. They should rely on more reliable sources and should not fabricate stories to sow seeds of discontent among our Muslim people and [words indistinct].

The history of our dear country and the life of our Muslim and mujahid people has always passed through such hard and sensitive days with firmness, patience, and awareness. The present leadership of Afghanistan is sure that unjustifiable actions by a number of circles in recent months which have brought nothing but an increase in the burden of pain and suffering of the people of Kabul [words indistinct].

The Islamic State of Afghanistan, as before, is determined to convene the [Reconciliation and Settlement] Council and elect a new leader by a vote of the representatives of the mujahid nation, and it believes that the only way to solve the present situation is to form this council. God willing, very soon the representatives of the Muslim and mujahid nation will express their will through this council in determining the destiny of their country. Success comes from God.

Postponement of Settlement Council Meeting Urged

LD0912155492 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pushto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Citing a responsible source, a correspondent for Radio Message of Freedom reports that the commission in charge of the convocation of the Reconciliation and Settlement Council [Ahl-e Hal wa 'Aqd] has sent the following message addressed to the Leadership Council:

Due to the difficulties that existed in the election constituencies the supervising election delegations from the Election Central Commission were unable to arrive in constituencies due to the cold weather and other problems. On the other hand in view of reports from various provincial sources, due to illegal interference and abuse of government available means, the election delegations were unable to take action in accordance with the election program approved by the Election Central Commission and the Leadership Council [word indistinct] the process of election in the capital and districts of the Kabul has not yet begun. Therefore the Central Commission of the Reconciliation and Settlement Council notes this announcement that the council should not be convened on the scheduled day. The convocation of the council requires more time to be convened in accordance with the provisions on election for this council. Hence this request has been made to the Leadership Council to choose another appropriate time for the convocation of the Reconciliation and Settlement Council.

The representatives of Mawlawi Khalis, the National Front [Mahaz-e Meli], the Revolution Movement [Harakat-e Enqelab], the Islamic Movement [Harakat-e Eslami] of Ayatollah Mohseni, the Liberation Front [Jabha-e Nejat], the Islamic Party [Hezb-e Eslami] of Afghanistan, and Islamic Unity [Hezb-e Wahdat] formations have all signed this application. However, the representatives of Islamic Society [Jami'at-e Eslami] and Islamic Union [Etehad-e Eslami] formations did not sign this application.

Hekmatyar Message on Destruction of Indian Mosque

LD0912145892 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pushto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 9 Dec

[Message by Gulbeddin Hekmatyar, commander of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan on the occasion of the "martyrdom" of the Babri Mosque—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We strongly condemn the shameless action of the fanatic Hindus in destroying the Babri Mosque. We consider this action as the worst and most savage religious prejudice. The Muslims of the world must show their fiercest reaction in this regard.

First: They ought not to maintain normal relations with a country where neither the proper places of Muslims nor their lives and property are safe, and where the blood of dozens of Muslims is shed every day there. Nor should its people be employed in Islamic countries. I propose that all fanatic Hindus be expelled from Islamic countries.

Second: India should be considered as a country where the rights of Muslims are violated. Therefore political and economic relations with it should be severed.

Third: The rights of the captive Indian Muslims should be strongly and decisively defended.

Fourth: If these violations continue, the Indian Muslims will have no alternative but to struggle toward forming their independent state.

Five: The events in India, war in Kashmir, Bosnia, Burma, Palestine, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and other parts of the world of Islam show that the enemies of Islam have united against us. In order to save the ummah from this painful situation, we have no other way but unity and jihad. With unity and jihad we can change the situation and repulse aggressions by the enemies.

Official Apologizes for Attack on Iranian Embassy

LD1012220592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] In a meeting with our country's charge d'affaires to Kabul, the Afghan minister of state for foreign affairs thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its effective efforts toward ending recent clashes in Afghanistan. On the basis of a Central News Unit report, during the same meeting the Afghan minister of state for foreign affairs, on behalf of the Islamic government of Afghanistan, also apologized for the incident in which a rocket hit the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Rabbani Receives Pakistani Charge d'Affaires

LD1012210092 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Burhanuddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met during lunch time with the charge d'affaires of Pakistan's Embassy in Kabul at the State Presidency's Gulkhana Palace. Topics of mutual interest were discussed.

Bangladesh

Communal Violence Flares; 12 Temples Set on Fire

BK1012131592 Hong Kong AFP in English 1307 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 10 (AFP)—Muslim fanatics violated a ban on public assembly Thursday and set ablaze 12 temples in the Hindu-dominated Dhanmoi area near Dhaka, the UNITED NEWS OF BANGLADESH News Agency said.

Police rushed to the scene and arrested 28 suspects, the UNITED NEWS said, but did not give any further details.

In Dhaka, police on Thursday stopped some 2,000 protesters from the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami party from marching on the Indian High Commission, witnesses said.

Four Jamaat members of parliament in the march, led by Motiur Rahman Nizami, were allowed to deliver a five-point memorandum, addressed to Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, to the commission protesting the demolition of the 16th century Babri mosque by Hindu militants on November [as received] 6.

An embassy security official received the two-page memorandum as the march passed off peacefully.

The memorandum included demands for the reconstruction of the mosque on its original site, the release of Indian Muslim priests and guarantees for the safety of Muslims in India.

President Receives Malaysian Air Force Chief

BK0912142692 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] Visiting Air Force Chief of Malaysia Lieutenant General Datuk Sri Haji Mohamad Yunos Bin Mohamad called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhavan [president's office] in Dhaka today. During their talks, President Biswas said that the deep relationship existing between Bangladesh and Malaysia has been further consolidated through mutual cooperation. He said there is ample scope for investment in Bangladesh and added that Malaysian investors will feel encouraged by it. The president emphasized the need for more exchanges of visits between delegations of the two countries to further strengthen the bonds of friendship. Gen. Yunos said that Malaysia will extend assistance to Bangladesh in all sectors, including industrial development.

India

Prime Minister Discusses National Crisis

BK1012173992 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1331 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Interview with Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao by Dilip Padgaonkar, editor of THE TIMES OF INDIA; place, date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Padgaonkar] Prime Minister, restoring peace and normalcy is obviously your first priority. Unfortunately, reports flowing in from different parts of the country show that there is still great deal of communal violence. I would like to ask you first what the kind of measures you have taken to restore normalcy and the kind of measures you wish to take in the days ahead to ensure the country becomes peaceful and normal again?

[Rao] I have been monitoring, myself, from hour to hour, from city to city, and I have found that in the last 24 hours, there has been a perceptible change for the better. There are cities, parts of some cities, where violence still continues, but we have taken very strong measures, including the induction of the army in all these places and even in these cities. The situation as of now is not as bad as it was, say, 24 hours earlier or 12 hours earlier. There is a steady improvement. What is really causing anxiety is that some new places are getting involved. So, those preventive actions is to be taken, and we are taking that. In fact, just about a few minutes back, I got some news about some other towns. I was not quite sure whether it was true or just a false alarm. Whatever it was, I took action in a minute to get the full information and get the army inducted in those places from wherever it was available, and paramilitary forces also have been alerted. So, this is the way we are working, almost around the clock. There has been, as I said, a perceptible improvement in situation. But, of course, it is all touch and go and taking the whole country, one has to be vigilant throughout the country, wherever one [words indistinct] occurs some such trouble and immediately action has to be taken. It is going to be a very very difficult task for some days.

[Padgaonkar] Why do you think there has been greater incidents of violence in Congress-ruled states?

[Rao] Well, I don't think there is any big distinction to be made in Congress-ruled states and non-Congress-ruled states. I don't think that is valid. There are some Congress-ruled states where almost nothing has happened, and this also is one of the factors, but I don't think that is (?worth) it.

[Pulgaonkar] Some people have been asking me whether if the situation cannot be properly controlled rapidly, one of your options would be imposing an internal emergency?

[Rao] I don't think that will be necessary.

[Pulgaonkar] Prime Minister, do you genuinely believe that the arrest of the leaders of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], VHP [World Hindu Council], RSS [Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh, Hindu fundamentalist organization] combine and the ban on some of these communal organizations is going to win the larger battle, which is the battle for the hearts and minds of our people?

[Rao] Well, the thing is we have to take steps which are entailed. This is the demand of the hour. When these people have created religious feelings, communal feelings, to this extent, to the extent of taking the situation to a point of no return, I think whosoever he may be, howsoever big and otherwise important they may be, the law is much above them.

[Pulgaonkar] So, (Tis a sense), it does not really matter to you if these two measures that you have taken or about to take will eventually benefit the BJP politically?

[Rao] I don't think so. The people of this country are law- abiding, and when it is known that a person is going against the law, taking the law into his own hands and without the capacity to control the situation, allow the situation to go out of hand to the extent of getting one of our very important 400-year-old monuments demolished within a couple of hours, I think that's to be met. The people will certainly understand. We will make them understand. I am sure they understand.

[Pulgaonkar] Prime Minister, what you propose to do now that the Babri masjid [mosque] structure stands demolished? What you contemplate on the spot in the weeks and months ahead?

[Rao] First, we have to think about the necessity. Only when we have a good, peaceful situation we will think of how the commitments given already have to be implemented. I am sure they will be implemented. On that, I have no doubt.

[Pulgaonkar] In other words, I am referring to the speech you made from the ramparts of the Red Fort, and there you had said that there has to be the mosque, but alongside there is got to be a magnificent temple to Ram. Do you still stand by that statement?

[Rao] Yes, that is the party line, and I stand by that, government stands by it.

[Pulgaonkar] Prime Minister, you have been quoted in the newspapers today as saying that you wanted a united front to be created so that communism gets straightened in the country. My question is: Do you have anything specific by way of some kind of an arrangement with other political parties?

[Rao] Well, this depends on everyone. I have said what I desire, what my view is, and the follow-up depends on the response. I have good response from some parties, not as good from others, but we will keep trying.

[Pulgaonkar] I would like to go back to Sunday's developments, Prime Minister, and ask you whether in retrospect you think you ought to have done something which you did not do or you ought not to have done something which you did?

[Rao] No, I don't think either. We did exactly what we are empowered to do under the Constitution. We did not do anything that oversteps the Constitution. On both accounts, I am fully convinced.

[Pulgaonkar] So, how do you respond to a former prime minister as saying, again quoted in the papers today, that along with the leaders of the BJP, the prime minister of India should also be tried?

[Rao] What can I say to that? That is his opinion.

[Pulgaonkar] I understand that your party is backing you fully in what you have done, as has your cabinet. Why then do speculations persists of certain differences within the ranks of the ruling party?

[Rao] I don't know, unless people are deliberately doing speculation. I don't see any basis for speculation.

[Pulgaonkar] Prime Minister, do you agree that this whole issue of Ayodhya was from the very start a political one?

[Rao] Of course, it was a political one. There were nothing religious about it. Or if there was, it was distorted, it was misused. That is the crux of the whole thing.

[Pulgaonkar] So, in that case, why did you get the Supreme Court to come into the matter?

[Rao] I did not get the Supreme Court to come into the matter. I was not a party in the Supreme Court at all...

[Pulgaonkar, interrupting] But the question that has been raised is...

[Rao, interrupting] And the Supreme Court, for your information, asked the central government to come and give its opinion. I did not go to the Supreme Court asking for being a party. Because the Supreme court was seized of the particular matter, it was to decide on that matter. And that matter was one of violation of the orders of the Supreme Court and the contempt proceedings arising out of that. So, the Supreme Court wanted the Government of India to assist in coming to a decision.

[Pulgaonkar] Prime Minister, when you met the editors yesterday, you described the conduct of this combine as utter [word indistinct].

[Rao] Yes.

[Padgaonkar] My question to you is: For months, the combine was mocking at parliament, mocking at the courts, mocking at the Constitution. How come then that you kept on trusting that government up to the bitter end?

[Rao] Well, they have many voices. One voice mocks, the other voice venerates. The state government gives affidavit after affidavit after affidavit, the refrain of which is that they will protect this structure—that is, the mosque—at all costs. Now, a state government has to be believed under the Constitution. It is the feature of the Constitution, and no one would have forgiven me if I would mid even the state government. I do not believe, I do not trust, and even if they have said this, i think, they are not going to do it. This is not done. When we have so many state governments in a federal structure, it is just not possible for the central government to start with the assumption that a state government says something and we are supposed to distrust it. That is not [words indistinct].

[Padgaonkar] But, in the light of these economic developments, do you think there is a scope to take another look precisely at the center and...

[Rao, interrupting] That will have to be looked into by people like you. You have known now what exactly happened. We went exactly as the Constitution says. Now, if something has been found wanting, that is for us to look into.

[Padgaonkar] One of the charges that the combine has been making is that the secular parties—they call them pseudosecular—that these parties have not shed as many tears on the destruction of temples in Kashmir as they have on the destruction of the Babri masjid. How do you respond to that?

[Rao] I think, this is not a question of shedding tears. It is a question of dealing with the situation. One thing leads to another. That is what we have to understand. That is not a question of selective shedding of tears. That would be a very distorted view to take whether it is a mosque, or a temple, or any other place of worship. Its destruction is heinous.

[Padgaonkar] My last question, Prime Minister, which is a bit personal, and you will excuse me for it: You have been in public life now for more than 40 years. You held senior positions in government for close to a quarter of a century. You are also a man of culture. You are well versed in the shastras. I want to know what your thoughts and feelings were when news first reached you that a place of worship had been destroyed?

[Rao] One of anguish, distress, extreme distress. That is how I would describe it. And, of course, followed by the determination to make amends as quickly as possible and as effectively as possible as a prime minister of the country.

[Padgaonkar] Sir, do you feel that you have allowed things to drift as far as certain principles which govern this [words indistinct]?

[Rao] Well, if you are talking of the decades that have passed, it needs a very long answer and probably complicated that I would not like to go into that. Someone would have to go into that. And wherever the chinks have appeared, we would have to deal with them.

[Padgaonkar] Also, the ordinary men and women of this country go much more by strong impressions and strong emotions and not really by the niceties of the Constitution or the rule of law etcetera. If you have to convey to the people of our country one such strong impression or one such strong emotion, what is the kind of impression or emotion that you would convey?

[Rao] I would say that the greatest need of the hour is peace and harmony, and this country will go to pieces if we leave the path of secularism. Secularism, harmony, sarvadharma samabhav [religious harmony]—all these are manifestations of the same old heritage which we have in this country. So, our being Indian should be equated with our being secular. If there is anything nonsecular, particularly in the political field, it [words indistinct] there.

[Padgaonkar] Thank you, Prime Minister.

[Rao] Thank you, very much.

Promises White Paper

BK1112091592 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] The prime minister says although he is greatly anguished over the demolition of the Babri Masjid [mosque], he does not think he is responsible for it. Speaking to foreign news and media persons at his residence in New Delhi today, Mr. Narasimha Rao said the immediate task before the Government is to control violence and bring back peace and normalcy in the country. He said a white paper will soon be brought out giving a blow-by-blow account of the events and developments leading to the demolition on Sunday last. He said he has not been indecisive and if one noted the decisions he had taken in the last one and half years and compared them with decisions in the period earlier, one would be convinced that the charge is an absolute untruth.

Mr. Rao said the Constitution is uncircumcised to him and it did not permit any shortcut to dismiss the Kalyan Singh government in Uttar Pradesh [U.P.] earlier than it was. This was a limitation, if one may call it, imposed by the federal structure.

The prime minister denied that there were police excesses in curbing the riots. Mr. Rao held the dismissed Kalyan Singh government as solely responsible for the vandalism of the mosque. The Center had to trust the duly elected state government which made promises

after provision to the courts, the National Integration Council, and the central government that the mosque will not be harmed.

The prime minister said he did not think his authority has been undermined by the event and its aftermath as nothing has been left undone to control the situation. Asked why the Shiva Sena, which had admitted complicity, has not been banned, Mr. Rao said the ban has been confined to the organizations only and does not apply to political parties.

Asked if the Allahabad high court judgment [rejecting acquisition of land by Uttar Pradesh government near mosque] would have made a difference if it came before Sunday, the prime minister said he did not think so. But the judgment shows a mala fide manner and intention of the former U.P. government in acquiring land near the disputed site.

Mr. Rao said he was confident that Ayodhya fallout will not cause a permanent setback to the economic reforms as their merit is such that they cannot fail. He said India has gone through such upheavals from time to time and every time emerged stronger.

Refuses To Resign

BK1012113092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1336 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 10 (AFP)—Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao refused Thursday to resign over the razing of an ancient mosque, and said the turmoil sparked by the sacrilege had not hurt his sweeping economic reforms.

"Why should I resign? (There is) no question of it at all," he told a television programme in an interview. "I will finish the five-year term," which began in June 1991. He said he still enjoyed the support of his cabinet and the ruling Congress (I) party.

India's secular opposition has demanded that the 71-year-old prime minister quit for failing to protect the 16th century mosque in Ayodhya torn down by Hindu fanatics Sunday, sparking nationwide communal violence. But the Congress (I) has rallied behind Rao.

Rao also denied that the simmering Ayodhya conflict had affected the government's sweeping fiscal reforms, aimed at ending four decades of closed-door economic policy in India.

"The speculations that the reforms are being shelved are absolutely unfounded," he said, adding that the pace of reform was being maintained, although that "is not being satisfied."

5 Organizations Banned for Demolition of Mosque

BK1112034192 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] The government last night banned five organizations under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act. The organizations are Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh [RSS], the Bajrang Dal, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP], the Islamic Sevak Sangh, and the Jamiat-i-Islami-i-Hind. One of the reasons for banning the RSS, VHP, and the Bajrang Dal is for their participation in the demolition of the structure in Ayodhya on Sunday [6 December]. These organizations and the Islamic Sevak Sangh have also been banned for promoting disharmony, feelings of enmity, hatred or ill will among different religious communities. The Jamiat-i-Islami-Hind has been declared unlawful for preaching secession. An official spokesman said newsmen in New Delhi that the specific grounds for banning these organizations are being gazetted and the state governments notified under the provisions of the act. Under the provisions of the act, the center shall refer the notification to tribunal for the purpose of adjudicating whether there is sufficient cause for declaring the organizations unlawful within 30 days of the publication of the notification.

Parties React To Ban

BK1112043092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] The Congress-I has welcomed the ban on five communal organizations. The party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, pointed out that it was the Congress-I which had demanded the ban. The Janata Dal leader, Mr. V.P. Singh, in his reaction said it is to be seen how the decision is going to be implemented. The SJP [Samajwadi Janata Party] leader, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, said that the ban would create distrust and acrimony. The DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] leader, Mr. Karunanidhi, welcoming the steps, said the party will not oppose the ban on organizations propagating communalism and violence. The Bharatiya Janata Party's vice president, Mr. K.L. Sharma, criticized the ban saying that the step was taken in haste.

Court Rejects Acquiring Land for Temple Near Mosque

BK1112065292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0630 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] The special bench of the Allahabad High Court today quashed the notification of the 2.77 acre acquired land by the Uttar Pradesh government. The judgment was delivered by a three-judge bench comprising Mr. Justice S.P. Mathur, Mr. Justice Brijesh Kumar, and Mr. Justice S.H.A. Raza. The Uttar Pradesh government had last year acquired the 2.77 acres of land adjoining the Babri Masjid-Ram Janambhoomi [mosque-temple] complex at Ayodhya. The validity of the acquired land was challenged in the court. The notification was challenged by a group of people led by Mr. Mohammad Hashim.

Court Seeks Delhi, UP Views on Shrine Reconstruction

BK1012164892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] The Supreme Court today directed the center and the state of Uttar Pradesh [UP] to give their views on the reconstruction of the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] at Ayodhya and on the prosecution of those responsible for the lapses, which led to the demolition of the structure.

The division bench comprising Mr. Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah, and Mr. Justice G.N. Ray, issued notices to the counsels of the central government and the state of UP to make their reaction known by the 18th of this month. The notices were issued on applications moved by the original contempt petitioners seeking a direction against the center to construct the Babri Mosque in its original condition and to maintain status quo. The applications also sought action against the former state chief minister, state government officials, and leaders of the BJP, VHP [Bharatiya Janata Party, Vishwa Hindu Parishad] and Bajrang Dal for inciting the kar sevaks [volunteers for temple construction]. The Panchsen Party president, Mr. Bhim Singh, also filed a writ petition seeking identical relief. He also submitted a video cassette claiming that it contains detailed accounts of events of Ayodhya last Sunday [6 December]. An intervention application was filed by some advocates opposing the relief sought in the applications by the counsels of the contempt petitioners.

Radio Reports on Situation Throughout Country

BK1112095292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh the situation in Kanpur city is stated to be tense. Our Lucknow correspondent reports that incidents of arson, cross-firing, and stabbing were reported from the city in which 24 persons lost their lives last night. Army deployed in the city continues to assist the civil administration in maintaining peace and law and order. Meanwhile, indefinite curfew is continuing in 34 towns and cities. The situation is stated to be tense, but under control.

In West Bengal, the overall law and order situation has improved during the last 24 hours. Curfew was relaxed for four hours in the morning in the 12 police station areas of Howrah and the Barrackpore subdivisions of North 24 Parganas District. No untoward incident was reported. In Calcutta, curfew was relaxed for two hours from 1300 in all the police station areas, excepting two. According to the state chief secretary, the situation is absolutely under control.

In Bombay, no major untoward incident was reported from the curfew-bound localities. According to PTI, the death toll in the current violence has risen to 191, with 31 persons succumbing to their injuries in various hospitals. The situation in the metropolis and other parts of the state has shown improvement.

In Karnataka, the situation continues to be peaceful and well under control. In Bangalore, curfew was relaxed for three hours from 0600 this morning in the 10 curfew-bound localities. No untoward incident was reported. In other areas of the city, shops and business establishments are open and buses are plying as usual.

In Orissa, the situation is limping back to normal. The district administration has lifted the indefinite curfew in the Cuttack city and Kendrapada town from 0700 this morning. A high-level meeting presided over by the chief minister, Mr. Biju Patnaik, reviewed the law and order situation in Bhubaneshwar today. Mr. Patnaik announced a grant of 500,000 rupees from the chief minister's relief fund for those affected in the riots.

In Assam, the overall situation in the troubled areas of Nowgong and Goalpara Districts is reported to be peaceful and under control. However, tension still continues in Dubri areas. The curfew is continuing in Dubri and its neighboring areas of Goalpara, Nowgong, Silchar, and the (Hojai) subdivisions. The chief minister, Mr. Hiteshwar Saikia, and the union minister of state for steel, Mr. Santosh Mohan Dev, are visiting the affected areas of Barrack valley today.

In the capital, some incidents of violence have been reported in the northeast district. Unruly mobs set on fire some timber shops resulting in a serious fire. Thirty-five fire tenders have been pressed into service to extinguish the blaze which is still raging.

Relief Committees Set Up

BK1012150292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] The Congress-I has set up a central relief committee with the party president, Mr. Narasimha Rao, as its chairman for providing assistance to the persons affected by violence. Mr. Sitaram Kesari is the convener of the nine-member committee which includes Mr. C.K. Jaffer Sharif, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Mr. Ahmad Patel, and Mr. Sushil Kumar Shinde. A control room has also been set up under the party joint secretary, Major Ved Prakash, to coordinate relief activities around the clock. Pradesh Congress-I committees have been asked to set up similar relief committees at the state level.

Iran

Cooperation Memorandum Signed with DPRK

LD0612192392 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Following talks between the DPRK vice premier and our country's officials, a memorandum of understanding was signed today between North Korea and the

Islamic Republic of Iran. It was signed by Vice Premier Kim Tal-hyon and Akbar Torkan, Iran's minister of defense and armed forces logistics and the Iranian head of the joint economic commission. Agreement is reached in this memorandum on various aspects of economic cooperation between the two countries.

Missile Deal Outlined

FM1112110792 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Dec 92 p 3

[Amir Taheri report: "North Korea Is Iran's Main Partner in the Development of an Advanced Missile System"]

[Excerpts] London— Iran and North Korea have signed a military agreement worth billions of dollars covering the development of new missile systems capable of carrying nuclear warheads. Experts estimate that the new missiles will have the capacity to hit 100 cities in 22 states in the Middle East and Central Asia. [passage omitted]

Details of the agreement have not been officially announced but informed sources say that it covers three fields. The first is the development of two new types of missiles financed by Iran and designed and manufactured by North Korea.

The second is the construction of "two workshops" in Iran for the maintenance and repair of the Soviet fighter planes and heavy bombers purchased by Iran from Russia, Ukraine, China, and North Korea over the past three years.

One of the maintenance plants will also manufacture spare parts for these aircraft. Iran fears that Europe's increasing influence on Russia and Ukraine might lead to a ban on the export of military equipment, including spare parts, to Iran.

Thirdly, the agreement covers joint work for the development of speedboats each carrying multiple torpedo launchers. [passage omitted]

Iran had purchased Silkworm and Scud missiles from China and North Korea. It has received another consignment of 230 Scud missiles from North Korea. The shipment reached the port of Bandar-e 'Abbas last month.

The new agreement provides for the development of two modified types of missiles, both originally of Chinese design. One is called M-11, with a maximum range of 420 km, an accuracy CEP [circular error of probability] of 1,500 meters, and a payload of 850 kg of explosives.

The second missile is the M-9B, with a maximum range of 1,100 km and a payload of 400 kg. [passage omitted]

It is not clear yet how much money has been allocated for the implementation of the agreement, which is for a period of five years beginning next March. [passage omitted]

According to the same sources, Iran's decision to link its vital defense interests to North Korea has met with criticism from within the government.

Some political advisers, who spoke on the condition that they remain anonymous, said that North Korea is basically an unstable state and the political situation there might deteriorate to unknown dimensions after the death of its leader Kim Il-Sung, who is 82 years old.

One Iranian political adviser adds: And then we will find ourselves holding a piece of paper worth billions of dollars. [passage omitted]

Claims of Oil Sales to Serbia Denied

LD1012202492 Tehran IRNA in English 1808 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 10, IRNA—Iran on Thursday strongly denied claims by the Moscow-based daily KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA of sale of oil to those customers that are reportedly exporting oil products to Serbia.

A statement issued by the Oil Ministry said, in fact through publication of such "baseless" reports, the Russian daily is trying to defend the Serbian stance and divide the united position of Muslim nations regarding the innocent Bosnian Muslims.

"The world already knows the stands of the esteemed leader of the Islamic Revolution and allocation of 100,000 tons of Iranian oil to the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, before such false rumors were raised," it said.

In pursuant of an order by the leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamenei'i, Iran has taken necessary measures to this end in coordination with Bosnian authorities, the statement concluded.

More Reactions to Indian Mosque Incident

Protest Demonstration in Qom

LD0812184792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Following the destruction of Babri Mosque by Hindu extremists, a group of people demonstrated in Zahedan this morning and condemned this anti-Islamic act.

According to the Central News Unit the demonstrators gathered in front of the Indian consulate.

In this gathering an Ulema condemned the crimes of the Hindu extremists in destroying the Babri Mosque and called on the officials of the Islamic Republic for a proper and appropriate measures against this anti-Islamic act.

Following the destruction of Babri mosque by Hindu extremists and insult to the Muslim sacred beliefs,

Indian theology students and Ulema in Qom's theological school gathered in the Imam Khomeyni Mosque and announced their disgust of this inhuman and illegal act of the Hindu extremists and condemned the destruction of the Babri Mosque.

According to the Central News Unit, in this gathering—where a large group of theological students from various Asian, African, and American countries, as well Iranian theological students and Ulema of the Qom theological school participated—the participants called for the arrest and trial of those responsible for this crime, as well as to violation of Muslim rights by Hindu extremists, and the return of the place of the mosque to Muslims.

Move on Attack on Indian Embassy

LD1012133592 Tehran IRNA in English 1233 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 10, (IRNA)—The Indian Muslim theological students, who gathered in front of the Indian embassy here, circulated a memorandum addressed to the Indian president in which they condemned "his most vicious act of blind fanaticism as well as the central government's negligence in protecting the very foundations of the country's constitutional law and integrity."

The memorandum further said "his catastrophic has deeply tarnished India's international image as well as the reputation of the country's ruling majority and its religion, casting the legacy of non-violence of Gandhi, Nehru and other freedom fighters into oblivion."

They urged the Indian president to order the immediate rebuilding of the Babri Masjid [Mosque] and its restoration to the Muslim community, the immediate banning of all communal parties and bringing to trial of the leaders and organizations responsible for planning and instigating the destruction of the mosque.

The government of India should take solid measures to regain the genuine confidence and respect of the country's muslims, the memorandum said.

Nationwide Demonstrations Cited

LD1112122892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] The Islamic land of Iran today witnessed the outcry of the ever present-on-the-scene nation, who attended the extensive rallies to protest the blatant insult and desecration of Islamic values and virtues during the barbaric attack on the Babri mosque. The participants called on the supporters of justice to defend the Islamic civilization and support the Muslims of India.

Reports dispatched by our correspondents from various regions of the country indicate that in accordance with the instructions of the guardian of the cause of Muslims, millions of people attended today's rallies and demonstrations. They condemned the attack on the Babri mosque and drew the attention of Indian statesmen to their legal duty, that is, to protect the Muslims' lives, their assets, and their honor. They also demanded reconstruction of the Babri mosque and arrest and punishment of the leaders of the fanatic Hindus, on whose provocation this historic mosque was demolished. We draw your attention to our correspondent's report from Tehran on the demonstrations held in this city today:

[Correspondent, heard over voice of crowd chanting the slogan: "A Muslim's silence is betrayal of the Koran"] The Muslim and ever present-on-the-scene people of Tehran attended a protest march toward Tehran University, this rendezvous of the risen and enthusiastic people of the city. The participants condemned the Indian Government's negative performance leading to the destruction of Babri Mosque by the fanatic Hindus. During this glorious rally, the Muslim people of Tehran demonstrated their hatred against desecration of the Islamic holy places in India and drew public attention to the warning issued by the esteemed leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamenei'i, on the conspiracy to destroy the Islamic monuments and to revive factional disputes in India. The participants demonstrated their wrath and hatred by chanting such slogans as: O you the idol-breaking Khomeini'i, break the Hindu idol; A Muslim's silence is betrayal of the Koran; The fanatic Hindus must be executed; Islam is our school and the mosque is our trench; Our book is the Koran and our school is Islam; God is the greatest and there is no God but Allah.

Ayatollah Sees 'Plot' Against Islam

LD1112114192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Delivering the Tehran Friday prayer sermons today, Ayatollah 'Abdollahian Mosavi-Ardabili said that the destruction of Babri Mosque by fanatical Hindus was yet another plot by global arrogance against Muslims. It was an insulting act to one billion world Muslims and as such it was a negation of humanitarian, moral, and legal norms.

Referring to crimes being committed against Muslims in various parts of the world he said: Genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina, arrests and torture of others, whose crime is simply to want Islam, in other corners of the world, and finally destruction of the mosque and creating crisis—these are all links in a range of plots which the enemies of Islam have been planning. Now they want to implement their designs against Islam more easily than before by creating a crisis and covering up their crimes.

He said the Government of India must take the blame for the attack by fanatical Hindus on Babri mosque. He stressed that, to compensate for that calamity, officials of that country should rebuild the Babri mosque according to a declared timetable and bring to book those who caused that anti-human and anti-Islamic act.

He added: Muslims of the world are losing no time as they wait to see the Government of India honor its own

promises by real action. In conclusion, he stressed the need for world Muslims to unite. That is the only factor that could enable the Muslims to hold away over the enemies of Islam.

Press Denounces Mosque Destruction

LD0812081792 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 8, IRNA—The press in Tehran today strongly denounced the destruction of the historic "Babri Mosque" in Faizabad, India by chauvinist hordes of Hindu vandals Sunday, calling on the Indian leadership to "promptly" react to the incident.

The English [word indistinct] "KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL" and "TEHRAN TIMES," expressed deep doubt over the meetings with the [words indistinct] which would only [word indistinct] India's future," and the latter saying that world Muslims would not remain indifferent towards the tragedy.

The Persian daily "ABRAR" warned Narasimha Rao's government to punish all involved elements in the tragedy and prevent further vandalisms by the forces of darkness.

According to reports on Sunday the ignorant Hindus wielding pickaxes and crowbars smashed the historical Muslim monument and razed it to the ground.

The KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in its editorial called the event as a "senseless" act with full potential to destabilize security life for millions of Indians.

[Words indistinct] unanticipated incident may well spell political death of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and his fragile government," the daily said.

Referring to the fact established by Hindu and Muslim writers that "there existed any temple in the site of the Babri Mosque," the paper said "several editorials, opinions and columns written by respected Hindu journalists gave documentary evidence that the Hindu claim [words indistinct] while stressing that during the Mughal rule, [words indistinct], not destroyed or replaced by Mosques."

The destruction of the Babri monument means a "new crisis" for New Delhi which was already in a political and economic quagmire the daily said.

"The fact that the holy shrine was allowed to be demolished amid prevailing tensions and controversies deserves condemnation across [words indistinct]" added the paper.

It expressed by saying "words cannot describe ugly acts of Hindu fanatics," and concluded that Rao's leadership has visibly "failed a very sensitive issue."

The TEHRAN TIMES warned that in case the New Delhi government "does not take necessary steps to redress the harm that has not only been done to the Indian Muslims but also to other communities in other parts of the world, then the impact of such heinous crimes can be [word indistinct]."

It said that the act of these fanatics and narrow minded mobs and their so-called leaders, trampled the ruling of the highest legal authority, the Indian Supreme Court, and made mockery of their entire system of the country.

"The destruction of an historical mosque and ignoring of the strict and specific ruling of the Supreme Court is another proof that these fanatics, who are of course [word indistinct] the majority [words indistinct] are not going to stop their anti-Muslim plots," said the paper.

The Indian government for [word indistinct] proper reaction to the [word indistinct] is referred to "dismissing" of the provincial government of the [words indistinct].

It also added the central government should immediately "build the demolished mosque and give the guarantee of the safety of this holy place."

The daily reiterated that India must [word indistinct] a country which gives precedence to any [word indistinct] religion [word indistinct] "tolerance and respect [word indistinct] beliefs of others," as the best formula for the country's security.

[Words indistinct] fail to do so, then the darkest future for Bharat Desh (name for Indian Constitution) is ahead which is not in the interest of Indians and the entire region." It would also inflict a heavy blow on the entire political system in a democratic country, warned the paper in conclusion.

The Persian daily "ABRAR" said if the central government " keeps silent and remains indifferent towards the oppressionist act of the Hindu fanatics it would face myriads of problems which would finally lead to the dismissal of Rao's government."

The Hindus, in violation of the Indian Constitution which believes in impartiality towards the followers of the different religions in the country, intend to lead the country to a situation in which only the Hindus would survive.

The paper termed the "disunity" of the Indian Muslims and "indifference" of their leaders to the increasing aggressions of the Hindus as a major problem.

If the Indian government fails to show a "serious" reaction to the destruction of the Babri Mosque, it would put the country on the verge of "disintegration" and make the Islamic world revise its policies towards India. The paper said the ugly measure by the Hindus stemmed from the "dual and unstable" policy of the Indian politicians and warned the Rao Administration to react properly if he "does not want to have the same fate as that of Indira Ghandi and her son."

West Blamed For Destruction

LD0812183392 Tehran IRNA in English 1612 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 8, IRNA—Two Persian dailies Tuesday described the recent developments in India as a new wave in the chain of anti-Islamic plots against Muslims by the West especially Britain and the U.S.

"JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" and "KAR-VA-KARGAR" referred to the fact that global arrogance is acting against Muslims throughout the world and called for appropriate measures to foil their plots.

"JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" said that the incidents in Ayodhya in less than a week since the Jeddah meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) foreign ministers on the situation of Bosnia-Herzegovina should not be taken at random.

The Jeddah meeting failed to take a clear, effective, efficient and immediate stand vis-a-vis the atrocities being committed in Bosnia-Herzegovina, said the daily adding "today we witness that the shaky stand of the Islamic countries and their doubts have tempted others to follow the same path of the brutal Serbs."

It lashed out at the inefficiency of the central government and the treasons committed by the Uttar Pradesh state as the main causes of the incident saying that negligence and inefficiency are the least charges that can be levelled against the present Indian statesmen.

Having the powerful Indian intelligence forces at hand, it is not rationally acceptable to believe that they were not informed of the destruction of the Babri Mosque in time.

For this reason there are serious possibilities on the implicit consent of the central government to the destruction of the mosque, said the daily and called for scrutiny into the issue.

It is hard to realize what is happening in India without considering world developments and the propaganda against Muslims' tendency towards Islam and only in this framework one can get the real meaning of the current developments in India.

This proves that the bitter incidents in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Tuesday meeting of eight Arab states in Cairo to find a solution to confront inclinations towards Islam among Arab nations and whatever happens in the occupied Palestine, the region and the entire world were linked through an invisible but perceptible chain.

The hidden and obvious hands of arrogance are at work to suppress, threaten and contempt Muslims everywhere and weaken their stand, said the daily.

"KAR-VA-KARGAR" said that the concurrence of the destruction of the Babri Mosque with other incidents in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Middle East indicated that the West was trying to deviate the attention of world public opinion especially Muslims from the present circumstances and open new fronts against Islam.

Taking advantage of the Muslims' anti-arrogant nature on the one hand and the ignorance of the extremist Hindus on the other, the enemies are trying to open new fronts against Muslims and if they succeed in fanning the flames of this sedition, lives of hundreds of thousands of Muslims would be jeopardized, it said.

The daily stressed that if the Indian government is honestly against the demolition of the mosque, it should do its best to retrieve Muslims's rights through any possible means. Otherwise future tensions and crisis in India would engulf the Indian government.

The daily called on Islamic governments to take measures to safeguard Islam and traces belonging to Islamic history.

Destruction of historical buildings and traces in Saudi Arabia, Eastern Europe especially former Yugoslavia, occupied Palestine and other parts of the world and recently the Babri Mosque besides massacre of Muslims are too sensitive and dangerous to overlook irresponsibly, is concluded.

Papers Censure Indian Government

LD1012193992 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 10, IRNA—Two morning dailies Thursday commented on the last Sunday's destruction of the historical Babri mosque in Faizabad of India by Hindu extremists.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said the Indian Government is trying, through exercising procrastination, to stop the Indian Muslims from reacting effectively towards ending the issue while KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL called for immediate resignation of the Indian prime minister.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in its weekly "political analysis" underlined that the Indian Government did not act on time and appropriately. It added that the destruction of the 16th century mosque is the starting point of a criminal plan according to which some 3,000 Indian mosques would be gradually demolished if proper conditions are accumulated.

It cast doubt whether the Indian Government would abide by its promises to reconstruct the mosque as it had also vowed to prevent destruction of the Muslim holy site.

The paper noted that the Indian Muslims are today shouldering a grave responsibility and that they should not remain passive and indifferent so as to encourage the Hindu extremists to continue to carry out their mission.

It reiterated that New Delhi does not intend to set a date for the revival of Babri mosque because the Indian Government, through exercising procrastination, is

trying to prevent Muslims from taking any effective reaction and effort towards immediate ending of the problem.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL believed that the mob which attacked the mosque was largely comprised of "unruly elements and paid agents who are normally mobilized to create chaos and instability in democratic environments."

The English daily wrote, "It was not only the Babri masjid [mosque] that was demolished on India's black Sunday. With the foundations of the structure a lot of Indian dignity, admiration and respect also collapsed that may never be restored again. The heat generated by Ayodhya will take a long time to die."

"Regardless of what happens to mosque-temple debacle in the future, and whether or not the Babri masjid is rebuilt, what Rao and India lost this week will never be recovered."

"Whatever little chances there exist for damage control, Indian intellectuals should move fast to stem the violence and invite the masses to exercise utmost restraint. Any barriers to immediate and effective resolutions should be removed without delay. If Rao's premiership is one of the hurdles, his resignation should be sought on priority," the commentary concluded.

Western Afghanistan Discussed With Afghan Officials

LD0512193092 Tehran IRNA in English 1821 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 5, IRNA—Iran's deputy foreign minister for Asia-Pacific affairs, Ala'ddin Borujerdi, discussed the current political-military development in western Afghanistan with the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami's Central Council official, Qari Ahmad, here today.

Qari Ahmad said that his party's policy is to avoid any tension or clashes in Afghanistan, but, it has its natural right to defend any attacks against its political. [sentence as received]

He appreciated Iran's assistance to the Muslim people of Afghanistan.

Borujerdi pointed out that the Islamic Republic of Iran is concerned over the Afghan events and hopes that Mojahedin forces would overcome their difference of views and resolve them through peaceful means.

He said the ambitions of some groups are the main reason behind tension in the country. Iran in view of its lengthy border with Afghanistan especially with its western parts would suffer negative consequences from any tension.

Stressing the need for territorial integrity of Afghanistan, Borujerdi said Iran will not allow any tension in the region at a time when Iran is passing through its reconstruction era.

ECO Protocol on Tariffs Agreed 'in Principle'

LD1012211992 Tehran IRNA in English 1459 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 10, IRNA—Iran has agreed in principle with a protocol on preferential tariff among the members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), facilitating imports and exports among member states.

The decision was made in the Wednesday session of the Cabinet of Ministers after the ministers discussed the issue. The protocol had been endorsed by the ECO foreign ministers.

ECO was initially formed by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey. It was later joined by six newly-independent republics of the former Soviet Union and Afghanistan, bringing the number of members to 10.

Algeria's Claims of Interference Rejected

LD0512113392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi, once again claimed, without offering any proof, that the Islamic Republic of Iran plays a role in the internal affairs of that country. Being interviewed in Paris by the BBC, he did not give any instance that would prove his claim.

The Algerian Government has been faced with difficulties for sometime now because of popular demand for Islam and the increasing moves by revolutionary Muslims. The officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran have dismissed such claims by the Algerian Government and pointed out that current events in Algeria stem from the Algerian Government's use of force in response to popular demand for Islam and the suppression of the people.

Khamene'i on 'Cultural Onslaught,' 'Corrupt' Videos

LD1012232592 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1720 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Excerpts] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the honorable leader of the Islamic revolution, met with the members of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution this evening. During a speech, he described the important role of that Council in organizing the cultural affairs of the nation. Speaking of the dangerous consequences of the enemies' cultural onslaught, he stressed the need to wisely counter this onslaught with the use of similar tools and methods. At that meeting the eminent leader described the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution as a great blessing for the cultural affairs of

the country and as one of the continuing legacies of his eminence the imam [Khomeyni], may he be admitted to God's paradise.

He continued: The Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution is a caring, hard-working, and responsible body in cultural affairs. Official, governmental, and cultural expert members of this Council have transformed it to the highest general cultural body of the nation and the highest body in the affairs of universities and education and training.

In his speech, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i spoke of the cultural onslaught as serious and real, saying: The cultural onslaught against Islamic thought and the Islamic Republic of Iran is a movement and a struggle that exists in various cultural spheres. On that basis, programming to confront it on various levels is a vital necessity and the duty of, among others, the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution, the competent ministries, and the press.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i pointed to the existence of a certain form of opposition to Islamic political thought and fundamental Islamic ideas in various books, articles, translated works, works of history, educational pamphlets and the press. He said: Currently, there are extensive efforts to lead the society's youth toward degradation and ethical corruption and this is one of the greater aspects of the cultural onslaught. Today the enemy has formed an extensive front using effective and dangerous tools and the use of science and technology to launch a comprehensive cultural attack against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Confronting this dangerous and destructive onslaught requires awareness and the use of similar tools and methods.

The leader of the Islamic revolution called on the authorities of the various cultural bodies to refrain from imposing personal tastes in cultural affairs. Stressing the need to understand the importance of the enemy's onslaught, he said: Today, the video has become one of the tools in the spread of degradation and ethical corruption. The Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution must comprehensively assess the methods of confronting this important issue with farsightedness; it must immunize the people, especially the youth, against this infectious and extensive danger. His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i described the creation of centers for the production of worthy and useful films as the first step required to counter the destructive effects of harmful and corrupt video films and said: The enemy carries out its cultural onslaught against the Islamic Republic of Iran in an organized way. If our response is not organized, the danger of the enemy's onslaught increases. Therefore, this issue must be addressed seriously and all the competent bodies must cooperate and use various methods to neutralize the cultural onslaught of the enemy. [passage omitted]

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i expressed his concern over reports on the encouragement and spread of lessons with a Western infrastructure [as heard], the dissociation of humanity lecturers from Islamic principles in some universities, and efforts to eliminate educational units based on Islamic sciences. At the end of his speech, stressing the need to combat such problems in universities, he said: Sciences that encompass Islamic thought and guidance must not be set aside in the universities. Without a doubt, students with Islamic credentials must be honored. The officials involved must put the teaching of humanities based on Islamic thought and world outlook at the top of their agenda.

[Passage omitted]

Possible 'Rift' Seen in West Over Somalia

LD0812181992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1600 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Because of the need for speedier dispatch of more food and medicine to Somalia, many circles and groups regard with doubt and suspicion the recent decision by the UN Security Council to dispatch thousands of American troops to send aid to that Muslim country.

On the face of it, there is a timetable for America to gradually land 30,000 armed troops to guard food caravans on the coasts of Somalia. It has been said that the number of UN troops previously dispatched to Somalia was insufficient, and for that reason they were not able to organize the relief operations in that country.

But there are reasons why the recent Security Council decisions regarding Somalia, and also the unprecedented motivation of the American authorities to send thousands of troops to that country, has encountered so much concern and doubt, and they should be examined. Particularly since independent circles have begun to raise certain points about certain future fateful issues in the period of transition to the Democrats and also the change in certain of America's military and regional strategies.

[Passage omitted] If we consider the events of the past year or two in that region, we would see that liberation movements in Somalia have in that period repeatedly attacked the areas around Berbereh port and also the installations that are at present at America's disposal. Now, if we regard the other side of the coin, the touchiness about this issue becomes more apparent. That is what is now known as the crumbling or rift in the western camp. That is, a kind of secret, calm, and quiet war only a few signs of which can be seen by the people of the world.

With the downfall of the system ruling over the former Soviet Union, the past cooperation, sympathy, and accord between Europe, America, and the Far East have approached an end and, according to certain analyses, have reached the verge of a trade war. [passage omitted]

Now, considering the rivalry between industrialized countries, and particularly considering the trade conflict that has appeared between America and Europe, we return to Somalia and the Gulf of Aden region, which is the traffic route of large oil tankers. We know that a country named Djibouti, one of Somalia's neighbors, is one of France's very close allies; that is, a country that is at present host to many French troops and France's largest warships have docked at its port.

Naturally, with the knowledge that many groups living in northern Somalia are as close to and cooperate with tribes living in Djibouti as they close and oppose the groups ruling over the capital of Somalia, our judgement would change somewhat about the recent events. Of course, we should note a report, which suddenly became a lead story in world news last week, according to which a French warship was trying to give the necessary aid to save the starving people who had sailed from Somalia for Yemen. It is clear that at that time there was no talk of sending American troops to help starving Somalians.

Daily Warns Against Israeli Attacks on Country

LD0812002192 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran Dec 7, IRNA—A morning daily here Monday stressed that ambitions of the Zionist regime does not necessarily require possession of nuclear power or atomic bomb, rather it needs the "collective efforts" of the Muslim world.

"JOMHURI ESLAMI" in its editorial commented on recent report [words indistinct] that Israel's ex-Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir had master-minded [word indistinct] attack nuclear power stations in Iran and Arab countries of the region but had been opposed by Washington.

The article stressed that with regard to the fact that Iran was empowered with the required military potential and manpower, obviously there was no [word indistinct] have access to atomic weapons.

But, it stressed, [passage indistinct] technology was increasingly being developed [word indistinct] on it would [word indistinct] Iran to gain access to scientific know-how and peaceful use of atomic energy and industries.

"Peaceful applications [word indistinct] energy, to facilitate access to scientific knowledge to guarantee its peaceful applications, it a natural right of all nations and our smart nation and the Islamic Republic system, will not forgo such a [words indistinct] noted the daily.

It said that the West and Israel were planning to create difficulties for Muslim states in getting access to nuclear sciences and technology since they were particularly scared of Iran's independence of view, scientific capability, and skilled performances in this connection.

"What we and the global Islamic movement have in our possession which has scared Israel and its [words indistinct] far more powerful and effective than the atomic bomb," wrote the article.

It stressed that in case Israel was tempted to attack Iran's atomic energy establishments, it would [words indistinct] scale assault of martyrdom-seeking forces primarily on Israeli nuclear installations deep inside the occupied Palestine.

Furthermore, confiscation of the enrich Israel had obtained for the West [word indistinct] part of such a retaliatory assault which [words indistinct] a threat not only on Israel but on its allies as well.

"Enemies of Islam know well how far such an objective could be achieved, an objective which is not a mere propaganda blast," Iran has no atomic bomb," the article concluded.

Dailies Note Anniversary of Intifadah

LD1012185192 Tehran IRNA in English 0919 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 10, IRNA—Two Iranian dailies Thursday commented on the sixth anniversary of the "intifadah' saying that the uprising would continue until the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people are restored.

"The Palestinian uprising has come to a stage where there is no going back," said the English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' in its editorial.

Stressing that the Zionists are horrified over the latest developments in the occupied territories, it said "the mass movement of stone-throwing demonstrators and an organized programme of civil disobedience to shake off the Zionist occupation has now become a deadly and dangerous war between armed Palestinian youth and police, security and intelligence forces of the Quds occupying regime."

It added that some Middle East observers believed that the ongoing Arab-Israeli peace talks which started last year was a direct product of the intifadah.

Turning to the human rights violations by the Zionist regime, it said that the issue has become so rampant and systematic that Israeli groups too have begun attacking their government's record in the territories.

"Muslims in the occupied territories have realized that the international community is too pro-occupied to help fully terminate Israel's state-sponsored terrorism," said the daily adding "there is no stoping the intifadah until Palestine's legitimate rights and demands are restored."

The Persian daily 'ABRAR' in its weekly English page said that contrary to the thinking of certain compromising Palestinian leaders who considered it a fruitless

and desperate effort, the intifadah had passed through varying degrees of perfection and fruition.

The daily lashed out at the Middle East peace talks saying they gained nothing but waste of time.

Stressing that the United States provided nearly dirs. 52 billion in aid to the Zionist regime in 1949-1990, the daily said "the Palestinians have lost all hopes of regaining their inviolable rights, have lost all hopes from the Arab world and countries purporting to support human rights, and they are relying on their own weapons and resources rather than promises given under various guises such as self-rule, autonomy and land for peace."

Nuri: 11 Jun 1993 Possible Election Date

LD1012204892 Tehran IRNA in English 1442 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Dec. 10, IRNA—Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri has said that presidential elections would possibly be held June 11, 1993.

Nuri, who was speaking to reporters here Wednesday, said, however, that no exact date has yet been set and that it will be decided in conjunction with the Guardians Council. Nuri added that the government intended to place more emphasis on reconstruction programs with a total of rials 600 billion allocated to this purpose, excluding banking credits.

He also cautioned that some of Iran's border provinces receiving TV programs of the neighboring countries are subject more than other areas to a cultural assault launched by the enemies of the Islamic Revolution.

The interior minister said that the country through a proper programming and publicity work should confront such cultural attacks. "Cultural issues are of great importance because we cannot repulse tv and radio waves transmitted from alien countries."

"Rather, we should act in such a manner that if people are to choose between foreign TV programs and ours, our programs will be their choice. This is not possible unless we enhance our publicity capability," the interior minister pointed out.

On return to home of Afghan refugees residing in Iran, Nuri said that the refugees were going back home quite voluntarily without any pressure from Iran. So far, he said, 300,000 out of the three million Afghan refugees have returned home. He also described the report filed by U.N. Human Rights Envoy Reynaldo Galindo Pohl on situation of human rights in Iran as "false and unfounded" and as a "yet another plot hatched by enemies to force Iran to retreat from its principled stands inspired by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i."

Oil Minister Foresees No Domestic Oil Shortages

LD0512170792 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1415 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] No problem in connection with the supply of petroleum fuel is expected to face the nation this winter, as the production of oil per day for domestic use has increased by 50,000 barrels a day. Iran's Oil Minister, Mr. Kho'i-Aqazadeh, taking part in an exclusive interview with the Central News Bureau correspondent, today further expounded on the measures so far taken by the Ministry to improve the distribution of oil products in the domestic market this year.

He said: One of the main problems which existed in this regard was the insufficient number of fuel carrying trucks, which has been eliminated by introducing 2,000 new trucks in the system.

Mr. Kho'i-Aqazadeh remarked that most oil refineries in the country are producing more petroleum products than their nominal capacity, and up to 50,000 barrels are produced more than scheduled a day. He expressed hope that no problem in fossil fuel distribution would emerge this winter.

Government Establishing Space Association

LD0812200392 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 8, IRNA—The Islamic republic is to establish the Iranian Space Association (ISA), Iran's permanent Ambassador to the United Nations, Kamal Kharrazi, disclosed here today.

Iran was aware of the significance of international cooperation and was building its own capabilities in this field, Kharrazi told the international remote sensing of environment and space applications seminar.

He outlined ways of peaceful application of the remote sensing facilities and said that Iran as a major country with rich natural resources is ready to set up a remote sensing centre for Asia-Pacific.

The seminar was inaugurated today by Minister of Post, Telephone and Telegraph Mohammad Gharazi with space and satellite experts from Iran, the United Nations and 26 Asian and Pacific countries in attendance.

Gharazi said that by exploiting the latest technology, countries would be forewarned of natural disasters and would be able to minimize their consequences.

Gharazi voiced the Islamic republic's readiness in cooperating with the U.N. in this field.

Campaign Against Drug Smugglers, Addicts Launched

LD1012170392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] In order to fight drug smugglers and addicts and the merchants of death, the Law Enforcement Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran will stage the Sheib [Cave] campaign throughout the country soon.

According to our correspondent's report, at a news conference this morning, Brigadier General Sharifi, the director general of the department for the fight against narcotics, thanked those people who have assisted the Law Enforcement Force in the fight against drugs by supplying it with useful reports and information.

He said: The Sheib campaign will be carried out simultaneously, on an undercover basis, throughout the country. All the law enforcement regions will be at the service of the Hezbollah nation, and will be ready to receive useful information and reports round the clock.

He added: In the past nine months the Law Enforcement Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran have discovered 38,563 kg of assorted narcotics; destroyed 219 gangs involved in the distribution of opiates; arrested more than 12,000 addicts and smugglers; and seized 437 weapons. They have thus taken great steps in the fight against drugs.

Pakistan

More Reaction to Destruction of Indian Mosque

Parties Issue Declaration

BK1012161992 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif chaired a meeting of leaders of political parties in Islamabad today that approved an 11-point Islamabad declaration. The declaration expresses deep sorrow and anguish over the martyrdom and desecration of the Babri mosque in Ayodhya by the Hindu extremists and strongly condemns this despicable act. The declaration also condemns the abominable acts committed by Hindu zealots against Muslims and the destruction of their property. It also says the Indian Government is responsible for the failure to protect the Babri mosque as it was aware of the condemnable and nefarious designs of the extremist Hindus. The declaration also recalls that the Pakistani Government and the Islamic Conference Organization have repeatedly expressed concern over the designs of the Hindu fanatics in the past two years and the Indian Supreme Court also gave a directive to protect the Babri mosque. The declaration demands from the Indian Government the immediate reconstruction of the mosque and the restoration of its former status. It also demands that the Indian Government grant compensation to the Muslims for the loss of life and property suffered by them in the anti-Muslim riots. The declaration also urges the Indian Government to discharge its bilateral and international obligations and to give full protection to the Indian Muslims and their holy places, especially those 3,000 mosques which the extremist Hindus have threatened to destroy.

The political leaders vowed to consolidate worldwide public opinion to pressure India to reconstruct the Babri mosque and to give full protection to the life and property of the Muslim minorities and their mosques. They said delegations of political parties will be sent to all important countries to apprise them of the causes, background, and antecedents of the martyrdom of the Babri mosque. In this regard, the political leaders fully supported the government in its efforts to convene an extraordinary meeting of the foreign ministers of Islamic countries to discuss the situation arising out of the desecration of the mosque and to make the entire Muslim community take steps to deal with the situation.

However, the Islamabad declaration condemned the acts committed against the life and property and the places of worship of minorities in Pakistan, as they are against the teachings of Islam on religious freedom and tolerance. The political leaders urged the people of Pakistan to maintain law and order and pursue the lofty principles and traditions established by their ancestors toward the minorities to prevent recurrence of such events. [passage omitted]

Sharif Comments

BK1012171692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said today's political leaders conference has given valuable suggestion which would help in evolving a national strategy on the issue of demolition and desecration of Babri masjid [mosque]. Talking to newsmen after the meeting, he said such meetings help the government in the formation of national policies. He said the political leaders conference formed a two-member committee comprising of Chief of Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party Mr. Mahmud Khan Achakzai and the minister for science and technology, Mr. Elazi Bux Sumroo, to contact the opposition leaders who did not attend today's meeting to evolve a national consensus on Ayodhya issue. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said whenever there was any threat or a conspiracy against the country and Islam, the nation stood united like a solid rock.

Cabinet Endorses Sharif's Measures

BK1012165292 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] The federal cabinet today fully endorsed the measures taken by the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, to meet the situation arising out of the desecration and destruction of the Babri Masjid [mosque] at the hands of Hindu fundamentalists. Prompt action taken through the

Foreign Office at the UN and ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] levels and the prime minister's decision to invite political leaders of all affiliations and views to evolve a national consensus on the subject were endorsed as major initiatives of the government. Chaired by the prime minister, the federal cabinet reviewed the regional and domestic situation in the background of the charged emotions following the tragic destruction of the Babri Masjid. While terming actions of the Hindu fundamentalists as most despicable, the federal cabinet unanimously endorsed the prime minister's instruction to the provincial governments to ensure the safety of the lives and properties of the minorities and the safety and security of their places of worship.

The secretary general for foreign affairs briefed the cabinet about the measures taken at the bilateral and international levels and of the views and comments of the foreign governments. Today's meeting of the federal cabinet was also attended by the provincial chief ministers.

Bhutto Party To Protest 11 Dec

BK1112081692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Benazir Bhutto, the co-chairperson of the Pakistan People's Party, says a protest movement is being launched from today against the demolition of Babri mosque in India. Talking to newsmen in Lahore yesterday, she said protest rallies and demonstrations will be held to condemn this savage act.

Gunmen Bomb Minister's House; No Casualties

BK1112090692 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 11 Dec 92 p 16

[Text] Quetta, Dec 10—One car and a portion of the residence of Sardar Yaqoob Nasir, Federal Minister, were destroyed when a grenade exploded today in his house at Loralai thrown by some unidentified gunmen.

The miscreants are reported to have thrown three grenades at his Loralai residence but only one exploded.

Sardar Yaqoob Nasir the Federal Minister for Frontier Region was however not present in the House.

The investigations are in progress. The motive behind the incident could not be ascertained.

Iran, Pakistan Buying Missiles From Mujahedin

BK0712101992 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 2 Dec 92 p 1, 8

[By Amanullah]

[Text] Quetta—Intelligence officials of Pakistan and Iran, who enjoys influence among various Afghan mujahedin groups, are making hectic efforts to purchase left-over Stinger missiles held by the mujahedin, reliable sources told THE FRONTIER POST here on Monday [30 November].

According to the sources, the intelligence officials of both the countries are competing each other in offering reasonable price for the missiles. This business was presently going on in Zabul, Qandahar and Helmand provinces, south western part of Afghanistan.

The source claimed that in the past, one missile was sold at rate of RS. [rupees] five lakh but now these groups who were possessing it were demanding two million rupees for single Stinger. It was further learnt that in the recent clashes between Hekmatyar group and pro-Iranian groups to control Shindad airport, 25 Stinger missiles were destroyed, however remaining 15 missiles were later on sold to Iran.

The purpose of purchasing these missiles might be that in future it would be a threat to the civil aviation in the region as possessors among the Afghan mujahedin might pose a severe threat to the air traffic by getting hold of these missiles.

Meanwhile, it is learnt that Hezb-E-Wahdat, a pro-Iranian group clarified that their members were not involved in the attack on members of Nabi Mohammadi organization in Farah city last week which led into sectarian clashes in which several persons were reportedly killed. According to the Hezb-Wahdat's clarification commander Nadir was responsible for this act. Pro-Iranian Afghan group offered to Nabi Mohammadi group to pay full compensation for the losses. Zahid Jalil, commander of Nabi Mohammadi group was handling the issue. However, peace was restored at Farah city, capital of Farah province, after four days of sectarian clashes. According to reliable sources, Iranian government has taken keen interest to resolve the conflict between Sunnis and Shiites in Farah town as this city is a corridor for Hazarjat where a majority of Shiites resides.

Former Military Official on Nuclear Program

BK0712104392 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 6 Dec 92 p 4

["Exclusive Interview" with General Mirza Aslam Beg, former chief of the Army Staff, by Ikram Ullah; "Former COAS [Chief of Army Staff] refutes Benazir's plea of ignorance: Clarifies M-11 missiles cannot deliver nuclear warheads;" in Lahore—date not given]

[Text] Lahore: Former Chief of Army Staff [COAS] Gen (Retd) Mirza Aslam Beg arrived in Lahore on Thursday, December 3, 1992, for what he described as a four-day respite from his hectic calendar.

The General said he badly needed rest to shake off fatigue from last week's five-day International Seminar on Asian Regional Cooperation, organised by FRIENDS [research foundation] at Rawalpindi.

Amidst a busy schedule of social calls, visitors, weddings and golf, he granted an exclusive 90-minute interview to 'THE NEWS' International, Lahore, dealing mostly with

currents and cross currents of the controversy surrounding Pakistan's nuclear programmes.

In a forthright manner, the former COAS addressed the channels of control over Kahuta, an issue so sensitive that the politicians dread to tread the very territory.

Commenting about PPP [Pakistan People's Party] chairperson Nusrat Bhutto's latest statement and former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's [BB] observation that she had learnt the details about Pakistan's nuclear capability at Washington in a briefing given her by Director CIA, Beg said the actual position, as far as he knew in his capacity as Chief of Army Staff during BB's term as Prime Minister was different. He did not mince words with regard to the recent US stance on the issue and the motives behind the ongoing propaganda by the Western media.

Commenting upon the LOS ANGELES TIMES' report about Chinese supply of M-11 Missiles to Pakistan, Gen Beg refuted the allegation that the missiles could deliver nuclear warheads.

In view of the sensitive nature of the issues and the first time revelations on the subject, full text of the interview is being given below:

Q: What, in your estimate, are the net gains of the International Seminar on Asian Regional Cooperation organized last week at Rawalpindi? Never before has a non-government organization in Pakistan attempted similar activity on this scale. It must have cost a lot. Were there gains proportionate to expenses incurred by the FRIENDS?

Beg: As far as the financial aspect is concerned, FRIENDS could not have borne the entire burden on their own. The lion's share was contributed by various organizations and kind friends who helped with the gigantic effort. Foremost amongst the donors were the Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Scores of philanthropists contributed towards the cost of the Seminar which was not a large sum by any standards.

As for the gains, the media, the Government of Pakistan and the people are the ultimate judge. You covered the entire proceedings. What was your assessment of FRIENDS' contribution towards regional cooperation.

Q: It's hardly fair to answer one's own questions. But I think you achieved a three-fold success in terms of:

(1) assembling intellectuals and leaders from 18 countries, engaging them in a lively dialogue resulting in a consensus on all issues;

(2) formation of Friendship Societies with all ten countries in the region, with FRIENDS acting as a pivot.

(3) adoption of an agenda, following debate and interactions, which if followed, will go a long way to changing the destiny of this region.

It will be no exaggeration to state that, apart from the the [as published] government to government efforts, FRIENDS have laid the first brick, at non-official level, upon which a grand edifice of mutual cooperation in the region can be built. A significant aspect of the Regional Cooperation Seminar was inclusion of China and participation, as observers, by a number of countries from the Middle East and Europe, particularly the Russian.

May I ask whether your visit to Lahore has anything to do with Benazir's long march vanguard arriving in Lahore today.

Beg: Is she reaching Lahore today? I had no idea. I have come to Lahore to relax and play golf. A mere coincidence. In any case I have nothing to do with politics and devote most of my time towards promotion of the Foundation for Research on National Development and Security.

Q: I am sure Benazir Bhutto's recent statement regarding her ignorance about up-to-date information with regard to Pakistan's nuclear programme has not escaped your notice. She has referred to a briefing at Washington by Director CIA and former US ambassador Oakley about our nuclear programme crossing the red line. Accordingly, Pakistan is alleged to have come close to a nuclear holocaust some time around May, 1990. It has been alleged that this happened without the knowledge of the then prime minister. Would you like to comment? You were the COAS at that time.

Beg: I am not surprised to hear a statement of this kind from the then Viceroy of Pakistan—Lord Oakley. It has sinister motives behind it—especially accusing Pakistan of having crossed the red-light [as published] i.e. assembling a nuclear warhead and developing the means for delivery. It was an obvious excuse for applying sanctions against Pakistan and freezing military assistance. The fact of the matter is that Ambassador Oakley or the CIA know that no such thing had actually happened.

Secondly, to say that because of confrontation between India and Pakistan, Pakistan was ready to use its nuclear device against India, was meant to convey to the world that Pakistan was such an irresponsible country, that having acquired such capability, it was ready to strike—an apprehension about Pakistan and other such countries (that if they possess such a capability) which had always been talked about traditionally. It is a well known fact that use of such a weapon of terror and destruction becomes thinkable only under very specific obtaining conditions, such as strike against Hiroshima and Nagasaki, without fear of retaliation and perhaps to bring about surrender of enemy forces to save on casualties if the war had prolonged. The situation between Pakistan and India is entirely different. There is a solid fear of massive retaliation from India as they have a stockpile of more than four dozen nuclear warheads.

Besides there was no critical or desperate situation at the time which could justified [as published] an extreme action.

Thirdly, the aim of dispensing such disinformation was to create a misunderstanding between the Army and the government of the day. Although the government at that time had engaged the services of Ambassador at large Happy Mirwala, who was negotiating the nuclear issue with the government of USA. Thus, the ambassador could not have done unless he had been briefed on the nuclear programme and the capability by the Government of Pakistan. Besides Happy Mirwala there was Gen. Imtiaz Ali, Adviser to the Prime Minister on defence who was also the chief negotiator on this issue and held various meetings at Washington and Islamabad with concerned US officials and diplomats in this capacity. All the activity by Happy Mirwala and Gen. Imtiaz, could not have taken place behind the back of the then prime minister, keeping her in the dark as is alleged to have been claimed by her now.

Q: In the back-drop of your above observations, the basic issue still remains shrouded in mystery as to who controls the nuclear programme in Pakistan—the army or the president? It is generally believed Ziaul Haq controlled the activity as long as he lived and the prime minister had not been initiated into the picture by Ziaul Haq. Mohammad Khan Junejo is reported to have paid a visit to Kahuta but is believed not to have been taken into full confidence by the authority in charge. As for Benazir Bhutto, she never paid a single visit to the sensitive installation nor had any control over Dr Abdul Qadir Khan's projects. How much control did you exercise over the nuclear programme as Chief of Army Staff?

Since your retirement in August 1991, it is believed that it is the president and the present chief of Army Staff [COAS] who are actually (collectively) in charge of the programme. It is commonly believed that even Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has very little policy control over the nuclear programme because of which on this issue, the Americans deal directly with the president and COAS.

Beg: There is no mystery about this issue, because the hand that feeds the mouth controls the reins. A programme of this dimension, if not funded by the government, which is headed by the chief executive i.e. the prime minister will dry up in no time. The president or the COAS do not have at their disposal a programme of this dimension. Of course the president and the Army chief do play a role which is only of an advisory nature.

Q: Do I take it from your observation that the prime minister of Pakistan exercises full control over the country's nuclear programme in all its forms and the general misgivings and apprehensions in this regard are totally unfounded?

Beg: Undoubtedly yes.

Q: It has been reported in the local press today, as well as foreign media like BBC and CNN that China has recently provided missiles to Pakistan which can deliver nuclear weapons. A local paper has quoted a report from LOS ANGELES TIMES that two dozen M-11 Missiles were disembarked at Karachi port during the past two weeks. Would you like to comment upon this?

Beg: This, again, is a part of the sinister design to malign Pakistan on the nuclear issue and create doubts in the minds of the people at a time when Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is shortly due to visit Japan. The Japanese are, naturally, very sensitive about nuclear poliferation because of the holocaust they suffered at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

As regards the M-11 missile system that Pakistan is acquiring from China, it is covered within the six-nation agreement on Missile Technology Control to which China is a signatory. The missile has a range of less than 300 kms and is not capable of carrying a nuclear warhead. It is neither designed for it, nor has the required degree of accuracy.

Ikram Ullah: Thank you General Saheb

Beg: Thank you Ikram.